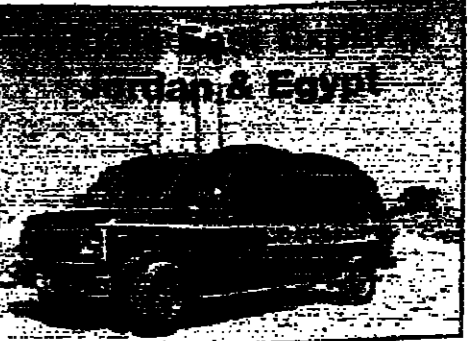


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THE JERUSALEM POST

NOVEMBER 29, 1996
KISLEV 18, 5757
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MAZADA TOURS



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PM, Arafat trade accusations

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat traded charges yesterday that the other side was dragging its feet on a Hebron deal.

Speaking to journalists at the annual editors luncheon at Tel Aviv's Beit Sokolov marking the UN November 29, 1947 partition vote, Netanyahu noted the negotiations had progressed little over the past month.

"It is becoming increasingly clear to us that, despite the fact that the gaps are not wide, the Palestinians have not taken a decision to complete the matter of Hebron."

"It is true that in the last few days there have been proposals, including ours, which are consistent with our main interests, but which give room to the other side. However, I am sorry to say that those proposals have so far not yielded the desirable results from the Palestinian side," said Netanyahu.

Aides to Netanyahu insist that Israel has been willing to use existing language in the Oslo 2 agreement, without adding explicit new language about the freedom of movement, so long as it attains the same result. The Palestinians continue to reject the idea of IDF freedom of movement, the so-called hot-pursuit issue.

Arafat yesterday rejected Israel's latest offer in the Hebron talks and called for arbitration by the US and Russia. Speaking at a press conference in Jericho after hosting Jordanian Prime Minister Abdel-Karim Kabarini, Arafat said, "It is clear and obvious that the Israelis are insisting to change until today the implementation of what has been agreed upon..." He denied that Israel had made any concessions in the past few days.

"We are calling for international arbitration from those who signed the agreement... We hope that Netanyahu will understand that in the final analysis the agreements signed are the real security."

Arafat said he welcomes a meeting with Netanyahu, but "not if it is only for the TV and photographs."

It seems that such a meeting will not occur at least for another week, as Netanyahu is planning a visit to three European countries beginning Sunday night.

Arafat has frequently called on the superpower sponsors who are signatories of the Oslo agreements to arbitrate in the Hebron dispute and has even threatened to take the case to the International Court in the Hague since he views the Oslo agreement as a document sanctioned by international law.

Arafat's statements yesterday contradicted statements by government officials which pointed to progress, and by Palestinians close to the negotiations, that in the past two meetings Israel "had moved closer to Oslo" - but apparently not close enough. "I would like this month or next month that we will have the opportunity to make the agreement; but you can't tango alone," Arafat said.

(Continued on Page 2)



Labor chairman Shimon Peres and leadership hopeful Ehud Barak shake hands yesterday at the central committee meeting. (Israel Sun)

The Labor Party's compromise agreement

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE main elements of the compromise agreement adopted by Labor's central committee yesterday include:

- The party convention will be held in January with the incumbent delegates to decide on procedures for the primaries for the party's new leader and candidate for prime minister.
- The convention will determine

whether the primaries will be open to all or closed, with only party members allowed to vote.

- A new convention will be convened in May, to debate ideological and national issues on the agenda, and proposals for structural changes in the party.

- The leadership showdown will take place on June 3.
- Peres will remain Labor's senior minister until September, should the possibility of a national unity government arise.

In case of a unity government, Peres will conduct the negotiations

and decide on the Labor ministers who will join it, even if a new party leader has already been elected. Should this happen after June 3, Peres will conduct the moves for joining the unity government in coordination with the new party leader.

Labor showdown set for June

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE Labor Party's central committee yesterday approved a compromise proposal by party leader MK Shimon Peres and MK Ehud Barak to elect its new chairman and candidate for prime minister next June 3. This will occur a few weeks after the party convention, which will elect new delegates and institutions.

The proposal was approved with only two votes against. Barak, who won his demand to hold the leadership showdown next summer, said, "I'd rather not talk in terms of winners and losers. Labor today took the first step on the way to renewal and concentrating on our real rival, which is the Likud and its government."

The pact between Peres and Barak includes a "gentlemen's agreement" - which does not appear in the written document - that if a national unity government is formed in 1997, Peres will handle the negotiations for seating it up and be Labor's senior minister in it.

Commenting on this clause, which was not brought for the committee's approval, Barak said, "I think it worthy and right that the most experienced man in Israel at leading a state, much more than Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, should be the one to deal with setting up a unity government and choosing the ministers in it, if such a possibility occurs."

He stressed, however, that any move to form a unity government would be made in coordination and agreement with the elected chairman of the party.

Contrary to expectations of a stormy confrontation among Barak, Peres and "the rest of the world," as it was referred to in Labor, the gath-

ering was orderly and even disappointingly calm to many committee members. The compromise reached a few hours earlier between Peres and Barak, which MKs Haim Ramon, Efraim Sneh, Uzi Baram and other party leaders supported, removed the threat of a blow-up from the meeting.

Yesterday's meeting was a landmark in Peres's political career. Enveloped by the love of the committee members, who greeted him with stormy applause, Peres promised to support whoever is elected party leader instead of him. "This is my duty and right and I will pray he wins and do everything I can to support him," he said, to more applause.

After humorously apologizing for not delivering the drama the committee members had expected, Peres embarked on a speech explaining the technical aspects of the compromise as the best democratic choice.

Peres stressed that Labor must strive towards a national unity government in 1997, to prevent reaching "such an awful situation that I dare not even describe the year 2000. We must make a supreme effort in 1997 to stop the deterioration. We must return to the course of making peace, not to the present course of talking about it."

The compromise agreement was reached around lunchtime after feverish meetings and consultations in Labor's rival camps. Giora Einy, who served as mediator between Peres and Barak, handed Peres a written proposal by Barak. Peres called MK Moshe Shahal for legal advice, and Shahal updated MKs Yossi Beilin and Haim Ramon. (Continued on Page 2)

Barak leaves little hope for other contenders

ANALYSIS
SARAH HONIG

LABOR leader Shimon Peres delivered a tired speech yesterday to the party's central committee.

Gone was Peres's fiery rhetoric and acerbic tongue. The compressed tension within Labor did not explode with a bang, but, instead, it dissipated in a whimper of backroom maneuvering. And Peres essentially gave up and passed the torch to a younger generation.

This was done via "a classical Mapai-type compromise," as Haim Ramon derisively characterized what Peres and Ehud Barak worked out. The main upshot is that, by early summer of 1997, Labor will have a new leader.

Haim Ramon does not like it, because his interests demanded that the showdown for the party's

(Continued on Page 2)

Haredi TV watchers hiding in computer closet

JUDY SIEGEL

THERE is a growing trend among haredim to install expensive TV cards in their computers to enable them to watch television unobtrusively even though it is "forbid-

den" by their rabbis. *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Not only do they thereby violate community taboos, but they also evade payment of the Israel Broadcasting Authority's licensing fees.

Eran Kaplan, marketing director of Green Computers Group, which recently opened a Green Shop computer megastore in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul quarter, told the *Post* that he was amazed by the phenomenon of haredim and other very observant Jews installing TV cards in their computers.

"This hasn't happened at all in our first megastore in Tel Aviv, but it is a clear trend in Jerusalem," said Kaplan, who did not supply actual figures. Green Shop's Jerusalem branch has taken numerous measures to make the store inviting to the religious, including free computer lessons segregating haredim from secular customers and the removal of software on sex.

Television is regarded as so "non-kosher" among haredim that, according to a recent report, the grave of a woman buried in a special cemetery section for people who "didn't have a TV at home" was surrounded by a wall

(Continued on Page 2)

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مكتبة القدس

Seven more settlers' groups said to be meeting with Arafat

A loss for national unity

AT least seven different groups of settlers are in the process of holding talks with Yasser Arafat or his advisers, according to one of the participants in Tuesday night's meeting with Arafat.

The participant, who did not want to identify himself because he said this would jeopardize the talks, said he has himself met with Arafat on four different occasions.

The source said that the talks are centering on business deals, but are also dealing with other issues, such as overall cooperation between settlers and Palestinians. He said European Community economic cooperation for joint business deals is one of the issues on the table.

The source would neither confirm or deny that one of the joint ventures being discussed is a soft drink plant in

HERB KEINON

Hebron.

He said that talks between settlers and Palestinian Authority officials were held yesterday, and are scheduled to be held today as well. He would not give details.

He said that some settlers are trying to meet in Jordan with "people we are not supposed to meet with." The source blasted the widespread condemnation these talks have received from the settlement establishment, saying that Arafat - by meeting with the settlers - has essentially recognized the settlers' rights to live in the territories. "It is time to build a new conception," he said.

But Yechiel Leiter, a spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said that the settlers, "by going to beg to Arafat, make Arafat appear as the victor, and we the conquered asking for mercy, putting ourselves as his dependents." This is all part of "Arafat's would-be conversion," Leiter said. "He wants to come across as the grand peace maker, willing to meet everyone. He needs this for his image. Along come Jews who need to be stroked by a murderer, and he can come across as a magnanimous peace maker, someone willing to sit with his mortal enemy. One has to wonder about the seemingly pathological need for some Jews to prostrate themselves in front of those who wish them ill, and have spent a lifetime trying to harm them."

COMMENT
DAVID MAKOVSKY

YESTERDAY'S Labor compromise will be touted as a victory for party unity, but more importantly, it is a defeat for national unity.

The "gentlemen's agreement" between Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak will make the possibility of a national unity government more distant. Barak says the verbal agreement with Peres ensures that Peres will remain the senior Labor official in any unity government formed until the end of next year.

Peres has been holding out to power in the hope that a unity government would be formed and he would be able to contribute his expertise in determining the final disposition of the territories.

However, Peres' holding out only seems to ensure the reverse: namely that such a government will not be established because the distrust between the Likud and Peres is too great.

After yesterday's compromise, senior Likud aides now tentatively suggest that a unity government will have to wait until 1998, after Peres steps down.

There are too many people in the Likud who fear that a unity government co-headed by Peres will mean two separate foreign policies in dealing with the Arabs. There are also too many people in the Likud who say they will never forgive Peres for going behind Yitzhak Shamir's back in 1987 in reaching the so-called "London agreement," and others note how Peres circumvented Yitzhak Rabin during the early stages of the Oslo agreement.

It is terribly ironic, but so long as Peres heads Labor, there is little hope for progress on the peace front since its success is tied to a unity government. Indeed, so long as there is no unity government, it is doubtful that final status talks with the Palestinians can begin in earnest.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reiterated yesterday his view that broad national agreement will help Israel muster the political resolve needed once it

enters the most critical set of negotiations in its history. Finance Minister Dan Meridor has seconded this and other ministers privately agree that small coalition parties who hold the balance of power should not be allowed to block a deal. Even rightist critics such as MK Uzi Landau say that a national unity government is critical, although they view it as a political cover in the event that talks fail.

Without a national unity government, the peace process can be expected to do little more than mark time until the end of 1997. It can carry out the first two of the scheduled three pullbacks, which are called for in the Oslo 2 agreement.

The scope of the first two pullbacks are unspecified, and hence can be tiny. However, with the third pullback, which is supposed to occur by next September, Israel's presence in the territories is to be reduced only to settlements and "specified military locations."

At this point, the Netanyahu government would face a no-win situation: it either loses much of its territorial leverage before talks are supposed to center on Jerusalem and related topics (and be concluded by 1999), or risks strife that would make the Western Wall Tunnel incident aftermath look like child's play.

Peres feels that Netanyahu cannot afford to face the crucial third pullback alone, due to its momentous nature. He therefore expects a national unity government to be formed well before that date.

The growing political consensus is that Israel would be far better off reaching a package deal on all final status issues now by skipping the debilitating interim stages, which seem more like salami tactics. Therefore, a unity government is better sooner than later.

Unfortunately, this idea was dealt a blow yesterday, as it put the country second to massaging Peres' hurt feelings.

CONTENDERS

(Continued from Page 1)
primacy take place as late as possible. He counted on Peres to put spokes in Barak's wheels.

The "Mapai-like" solution means that control of those spokes essentially was taken out of Peres's hands, giving Barak a giant leg-up to the number-one position - to the detriment of all other would-be Labor leaders like Ramon, Ephraim Sneh and perhaps Uzi Baran.

Peres was fighting the new generation's war, by proxy when he set out to block Barak, but he could not take a chance on being uncompromising. Barak could. So, with nothing to lose, Barak adopted a tough bargaining posture. Peres had a reputation of winning all showdowns in the central committee, but Barak could live with a beating just as Yitzhak Rabin did in 1991 - only to beat Peres in the 1992 primaries. Peres, however, could take no chance on a humiliating defeat in the central committee.

That would have been an ignominious end to his long career and would have forever closed off any crack of an opportunity to lead Labor again even in the short run.

The compromise does leave that crack open. Not mentioned in its text but in an informal gentlemen's agreement was a deal whereby Peres would be the senior Labor representative in any national unity government that may be formed, though he would conduct the negotiations for entry into such a government along with whoever the party chooses to lead it. This conceivably could offer Barak - should he win - a veto power.

But in theory, at least, Peres can entertain the slim hope that he could become the top Labor man

ACCUSATIONS

(Continued from Page 1)
Kabariti, on his second visit to the Palestinian Authority, said that Jordan supports the Palestinian position on the matter of hot pursuit in Hebron or other Palestinian towns. "Talking about returning and talking about threats - these kinds of statements will only serve as a recipe for disaster," Kabariti said.

The government has accepted that it has no more rights to hot pursuit in Hebron than in other Palestinian towns, and is now willing to leave the wording of the Oslo agreement on this matter as it is, if the Hebron guidelines include a reference to it. However, the public airing of the issue has enraged Arafat, who now wants to clarify publicly that he will not permit the IDF's return to Palestinian-controlled territory.

King Hussein of Jordan visited Jericho last month and strongly supported Arafat's position, including his demand for a Palestinian state. In recent days Arafat has threatened to declare a Palestinian state in two years and a Yasser Abed-Rabbo PA Information Minister warned of "total confrontation."

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo also met yesterday with Arafat in Jericho and discussed the state of negotiations on the IDF redeployment in Hebron.

comprromise is more idiotic than right. They took the worst parts from each side's proposal and made a concoction which doesn't answer the central issue: how the party will prepare itself for the main battle."

Ramon said he would decide whether to contend for the party leadership after the January convention, depending on whether the leadership is determined by open or closed primaries. He warned that, should the primaries be closed, "I will want no part of it."

Beilin said the compromise "is not very intelligent, but I'm glad an agreement was found to prevent a confrontation." He noted that the "gentlemen's agreement" about Peres' priority in case of a unity government does not appear in the agreement and therefore binds no one but Barak - and Barak could get out of it if he wants to.

According to the final version, Labor's convention will be held in January to decide on procedures for the primaries, then a new convention to elect delegates to party institutions and debate party ideology will convene in May, a month before the leadership showdown.

No one was completely satisfied with the compromise, although each side could claim an achievement on the issues it considered most important. Peres won an extension to remain party leader until the middle of September 1997, with the possibility of participating in a national unity government, while Barak got the party to agree on having the leadership showdown when he wants it.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisons Service denies PM moved Federman
THE Prisons Service denied yesterday that administrative detainee Noam Federman was transferred from Ashmoret prison because of orders by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Federman, who was placed in administrative detention at the beginning of the month, was transferred to the low security Eyal facility.

Following a petition to the High Court of Justice this week, the court gave the state seven days to justify Federman's detention.

Former Kach spokesman Federman, the first Jewish resident of Hebron placed under administrative detention, launched a hunger strike following his incarceration and refused to obey prison rules. He complained that he was held with drug addicts and AIDS carriers.

Raine Marcus

IDF: Od Yosef Hai yeshiva to reopen
The IDF announced yesterday that it will completely reopen the Od Yosef Hai yeshiva, located in the compound housing Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, on Sunday.

The yeshiva, which its heads say has some 70 students, was closed after the violence in September when six soldiers were killed in fighting around the compound, and when much of the yeshiva was burned by rioters. The IDF currently allows under 10 students in the yeshiva every day, and they are shuttled there under heavy IDF security.

Herb Keinon

Dummy bomb found in Bloomfield Stadium
A dummy explosive charge was found yesterday afternoon at Bloomfield Stadium in Jaffa. It was blown up by police sappers. Police believe it was planted by a Hapoel Tel Aviv fan who might have wanted to threaten manager Moshe Sinai.

Sinai's life has been threatened and a dummy charge was placed near the team's dressing rooms a few days ago.

I'im

Burial next to non-Jewish spouses OK'd
The Chief Rabbinate has decided that Jews may be buried alongside their non-Jewish spouses in sections of cemeteries for gentiles that are to be set up around the country.

The decision was sent to Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Natan Sharanaky in a letter from Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau.

"In the event of a mixed marriage involving a Jewish man or woman, or non-Jewish man or woman, the Jew must be buried according to Jewish law," the letter said. "However, if the deceased asks to be buried next to his non-Jewish spouse, he may be buried in the non-Jewish section." Such a request must be made by the person in writing before he dies, the Chief Rabbinate said in its decision.

I'im

HAREDI TV

(Continued from Page 1)

after the burial society was told that she in fact had a TV set. Not having a TV is often a condition for admission of children into haredi schools.

The Green Shop sells a variety of TV cards for computers, which cost from NIS 499 to NIS 1,169. These convert the computer monitor into a color TV set, with the most expensive models offering hyperband, remote control and the ability to freeze frames and connect the computer/TV to a video. One model supplies radio broadcasts as well.

Avi Katz, director of the IBA's fee-collection branch, told the *Post* he was completely unaware of the phenomenon, and would look into it immediately. Existing laws require owners only of "TV set receivers" to pay the annual licensing fee, which costs hundreds of shekels a year, the wording of the law to include any device that receives TV signals would have to be amended by the Knesset if owners of computers with piped-in TV broadcasts are to be liable for the fee as well.

Katz denied a statement made to a Knesset committee recently that "half of all TV owners" evade the fee.

"A majority pay," he said, but he would not provide figures.

Katz strongly rejected the notion that a flat tax be added on to income tax or National Insurance Institute deductions from salary to replace the license-fee collection apparatus, even though the health tax collected by the NII made redundant hundreds of health fund fee collectors. However, the evasion of payment by watching on a computer calls the whole fee system into question.

Three killed, 18 hurt in traffic accidents

THREE people were killed and 18 injured in traffic accidents in the past two days.

Miriam Fernheimer, 78, of Ness Ziona, was killed and two people were lightly injured in an accident on Sderot Kolkach in Tel Aviv yesterday, when two vehicles collided. The accident occurred when another driver swerved to avoid hitting a bicyclist and hit the vehicle Fernheimer was riding in, driven by her son. The two drivers were lightly injured.

Shakib Ambar, 62, of Rama village in the Western Galilee was killed yesterday afternoon when the tractor he was driving overturned in an olive grove.

Jamal Antalah, 35, died yesterday of injuries suffered in an accident Wednesday evening when his car collided with a truck. A passenger in the car was seriously hurt and two people in the truck were lightly injured.

A mother and her two children, aged six and seven, were seriously hurt yesterday in an accident on the Ramle-Nachshon road, near Karnei Yosef, when the car crashed into a tree.

Ten people were lightly injured in an accident at the Shoked Junction in the Negev that occurred when the driver of a minibus failed to heed a yield sign and crashed into a truck.

(I'im)

LABOR

(Continued from Page 1)

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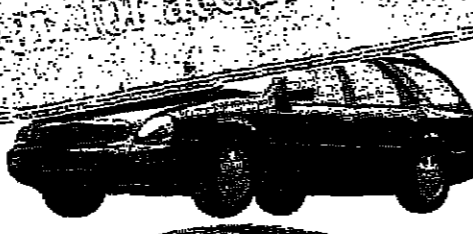
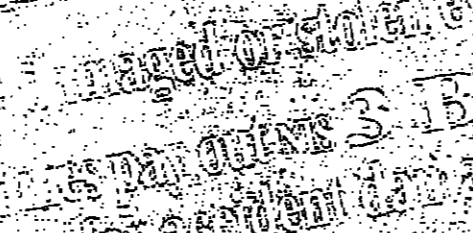
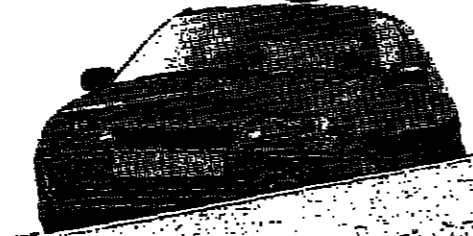
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will take place on Wednesday evening,
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at the Ramot Zion Synagogue,
68 Rehov Bar Kochba, French Hill, Jerusalem.

THANK YOU NEW YORK TIMES
for your wonderfully caustic and critical article about my efforts on the Internet to disseminate information on the conspiracy to kill Yitzhak Rabin. There is no greater compliment an artist can receive than such attention from his critics. If anyone would like to have a copy of the article that I have been sending around the world on the Internet, please send NIS 16 or US \$5, and specify language preference.

Also available: "History of the Uprising Against the Rabin Government," NIS 16 or \$5.

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Schoolchildren collect rice for Rwanda

Sixty tons of rice collected by schoolchildren for Rwanda will be presented in a ceremony tomorrow night at the Yakhin factory in Petah Tikva attended by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and the Rwandan ambassador.

Jerusalem Post Staff

BIRTH

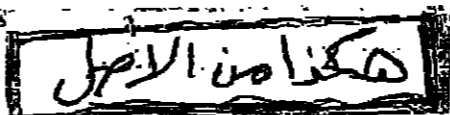
A Son, Nathan Zalman Pilcer to Mitch & Sary Pilcer of Moshav Zippori, on November 16, 1996. Grandson to Ben & Laska Pilcer, New York and Maria & Marissa Zerobin, Jerusalem.

OBITUARY

BEATRICE ANN BERMAN
Two years have passed and we deeply mourn our beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Grieving husband Harry, loving children and grandchildren.

CORRECTION

Tomorrow's concert at the Abu Ghosh church features Russian liturgical songs performed by the Musica Eterna octet, and not as listed in yesterday's paper.





One of some 250 billboards put up across the country show US President Bill Clinton supposedly recommending Chrysler cars. The Hebrew text says 'The problem with other American cars is that they are not Chrysler.' US officials said they were not happy with the ads, but were not sure if there was a way of legally blocking the use of the US president's image in advertising. (AP)

Clinton's car-hawking days are over

TWO weeks of President Clinton selling cars was apparently enough for Israel.

The local Chrysler dealership wrapped up a two-week advertising campaign last night that had featured Clinton's face on 250 billboards across the country.

"The only problem with other American cars is that they're not Chrysler," Clinton is portrayed as saying on billboards.

The dealership - Automotive Equipment Ltd. - and the Dahaf ad agency said the decision to take down the ads, intended to capitalize on the momentum of Clinton's election victory, had nothing to do with US officials'

unhappiness with the unauthorized use of Clinton's picture.

Mordechai Kalir, vice president of marketing at the dealership, said the campaign had always been intended to end after two weeks. He said he had assumed the ad agency had gotten permission from the White House to use the picture.

White House spokesman Barry Toitz, however, said "use of the president's image for commercial purposes is very much discouraged" and added that the issue would be referred to the White House legal office.

Richard Scorza, spokesman for the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, said the ads "went beyond the bounds

of propriety."

Dahaf maintained it had done nothing wrong.

"He's a public official. Public images, there's no problem using them," said Orna Degani, the account executive for Chrysler.

Besides, she said, "It's favorable because he's promoting

American industry."

Polls show Clinton is one of the most popular politicians among Israelis. But Degani said the agency was prepared even if Clinton had lost the election.

"There were two ads," she said. "One with Clinton and one with Dole." (AP)

Netanyahu: Defense budget needs increase to help attain peace

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

ISRAEL needs to change its national strategic doctrine and increase its defense budget, maybe even linking it to the gross national product, in order to protect itself, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

"I think we'll need ... to allocate more money - maybe in terms of the percentage of the GNP - to the defense establishment until we reach the defense and security levels that I view as necessary both to attain peace and preserve it," Netanyahu told journalists in Tel Aviv.

The IDF has already shuffled its funds to purchase hundreds of millions of shekels of material and increase training in light of the revised assessment that war with Syria was now a possibility. The funds were to come at the expense of acquisitions.

Netanyahu's comments come a day after Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara told British TV that the Israeli prime minister "is preparing for war." They also follow last week's announcement of an additional NIS 2 billion cut to the proposed 1997 budget.

Netanyahu has recently blasted his predecessors Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres for being "prisoner" to the conception that peace was an alterna-

tive to security. He said yesterday the erosion in defense funding had to be reversed to increase national security.

Israel's NIS 30 billion defense budget is about a tenth of the forecast GNP and the total cost of defense to the economy was about 12.5 percent.

In absolute terms, military spending has decreased slightly at a time of peace-making with the Arabs. But its proportional bite out of the GNP has dramatically dropped as a result of the great expansion of the Israeli economy which has increased by 45% since 1990. Since peaking in 1975, defense spending has dropped some 30%.

Senior IDF sources said that under the Labor-led government, the IDF modified its long-range strategic doctrine, allowing the IDF to eat its supplies and lower its alert status in exchange for arming itself for the future. This was due to a running assessment that war was not likely to break out in the near future. With this concept in mind, the IDF was given the go-ahead to invest in long-range defense building and shifted funds to R&D.

Netanyahu's attempt to change gears is confounding the plans, but they say the conditions which existed when it was decided to take this calculated risk have also changed. They were referring to the movement of thousands of Syrian troops last September to within striking distance of the Golan Heights. For the first time in years, intelligence assessments said a possibility of war breaking out with Syria now exists.

In response, the IDF has recently reshuffled its funds to quickly restock its shelves and increase training at the expense of R&D and acquisition. Some reports said over NIS 1 billion have been spent on supply orders.

Senior defense officials and IDF generals have long said they would like to see the defense budget linked to the GNP as well as the adoption of a multi-year budget for the army. But the Finance Ministry opposes the move, arguing that the GNP and defense spending are not related. The Finance Ministry also wants to see the army cut its running costs, including salaries, which account for anywhere between 25 and 50% of its total budget, depending on whose data is to be considered.

New book: Mossad operated for 10 years within Iraq

STEVE RODAN

THE Mossad operated for 10 years within Iraq, blowing up oil terminals and seizing a large reservoir as part of an effort to help the Kurds win independence, a new book says.

The book, *Broken Hope*, authored by Shlomo Nakdimon and published by *Yediot Aharonot*, details the Israeli campaign for the Kurds between 1963-75. It included arms and medical supplies being flown in by Israeli Air Force cargo jets to Iran. From there, the supplies were transported to the Kurdish rebels.

Nakdimon said the Kurds received such arms as artillery, mortars, rockets and light weapons.

The author says he interviewed 70 people, most of them Mossad agents and IDF officers involved in the Kurdish campaign. Some of them described how the Mossad organized the Kurds into units that attacked Iraqi troops in the north. A total of 10,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed.

The Kurdish campaign ended in 1975 when the Shah of Iran signed an agreement with then-Iraqi Vice President Saddam Hussein that ended the Kurdish revolt. Kurdish leader Mula Mustafa Barazani was taken by surprise by the accord.

Several days after the accord was signed, Israel evacuated its agents from northern Iraq and brought them to Iran. The Kurdish revolt soon collapsed as Iraqi troops routed the Kurds.

Police probe series of arson attacks, Golan Druse suspected

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE inquiries are continuing into a series of arson attacks and other nationalistic incidents on the Golan Heights - apparently perpetrated by pro-Syrian Druse - in the past few months.

The latest incident occurred late on Wednesday night when a blaze virtually gutted the dining room of a Swiss-style holiday village in Moshav Neveh Ativ on the upper slopes of Mt. Hermon.

The police spokesman for the Galilee district Supt. Eliezer Binyamin said that a fire brigade investigator had ruled that the fire was started deliberately in two separate places.

Police also found nationalistic slogans including "Down With the Occupation" and "The Golan Belongs to Syria" scrawled on walls in the building. The holiday village itself was empty at the time, prior to the winter skiing season on Mt. Hermon.

Binyamin noted that the incident was one of several attacks on public property on the Golan

Heights in the past few months. In other incidents, saboteurs set fire to a police post in Massada village and a blaze destroyed documents and part of a building housing the Income Tax Authority office in Majdal Shams.

"There have also been incidents of stone-throwing at police and civilian cars on the Golan Heights and in another incident part of a restaurant owned by the head of Buka'ata local council was burned in another arson blaze," said Binyamin.

There have also been incidents of slogan daubing on public buildings and the raising of Syrian flags.

Police detained several suspects for questioning in connection with the incidents, but they were all subsequently released.

The incidents, following a long period of quiet on the part of pro-Syrian Druse elements on the Golan, appear to be connected with regional political developments.



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Workers stage wildcat strike at Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat ports



Foreign Minister David Levy and Niger Foreign Minister Andre Salifou speak to the media after renewing diplomatic ties between the two countries yesterday in Jerusalem. Niger, located in Central Africa and whose population is largely Moslem, severed ties with Israel in 1973. Levy said the two countries would cooperate in a number of fields.

WORK at the Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat ports was at a standstill yesterday following a wildcat strike by employees over proposed new taxes, which they said would cut pensions and salaries.

At Ben-Gurion Airport, ground crews staged a walkout for three hours in solidarity with their colleagues in the ports.

There were no ground services at the airport between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., disrupting the arrival and departure of nearly 30 flights.

The unannounced strike by the port workers, from 5 a.m. yesterday, was felt the hardest at the Haifa port, where 12 ships waited for loading and unloading.

DAVID RUDGE

full backing of the Histadrut, which declared a labor dispute on behalf of the port workers several months ago. Railway employees were not involved in the strike yesterday.

The workers are concerned over plans by the Ports and Railways Authority to levy a tax of 11 percent on all the income from the authority's work.

They fear that such a tax would reduce the level of their salaries and would also put imposed on pension funds, effectively cutting their pensions.

The Treasury issued a statement yesterday saying that the proposed taxes would not affect salaries or pensions of the workers in any way.

were not convinced by the Treasury's promises and would continue their action to protect their salaries and pension rights. The 24-hour warning strike itself is due to end this morning.

Meanwhile, the Haifa regional Labour Court yesterday ordered the management and workers at the troubled Haifa Chemicals plant to resume negotiations of a new collective labour agreement and ensure full normal working.

The two sides are to report back to the court on Monday about progress on the negotiations which broke down earlier this week.

Management wants to annul the collective agreement, which the workers want to retain, in order to implement staff cuts and other efficiency measures.

Post Internet Edition introduces Mark 3

ILAN CHAIM

THE Jerusalem Post Internet Edition launched a new site design yesterday that is faster to load and use than previous versions, and features a built-in free search and archive facility.

Among other new features, the front page now includes a complete index of that day's edition, enabling the user to navigate directly to a chosen article or section. The search feature allows the reader to scan both the current edition or previous ones for pinpoint information.

The totally new graphic design

also features more news photographs. The new design is the third since the edition came on-line 15 months ago and reflects the need to provide up-to-date news and feature services to an ever-growing readership around the world.

Starting from zero in August 1995, readers now make more than 5.5 million visits to the site each month. Because about three-fourths of

this readership is in North America, the edition is planning to introduce soon a "mirror site" there to relieve congestion at the server in Israel and thereby provide quicker access to its largest audience.

The Jerusalem Post Internet Edition continues to be rated among the top 10 news sites in the world by the American Journalism Review, which cites it again this month as one of "the very best sources of news and information." The site address is: <http://www.jpost.co.il>

Bar Association head: Supreme Court criticism may have been misconstrued

BAR Association chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai suggested yesterday that his criticism of the Supreme Court and its justices in a newspaper interview may have been misconstrued.

"I am not responsible for all of the banner headlines in the media, but only for what I said. Unfortunately, it is apparent that sometimes the headlines don't match the contents," Hoter-Yishai said yesterday at a ceremony welcoming new members of the association at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

Hoter-Yishai's comments in an interview with the hardi newspaper *Yated Ne'eman* caused a stir Wednesday.

Hoter-Yishai was quoted as saying that the court's justices had become so concerned with their own agendas that they were neglecting their responsibilities to the law.

In his comments yesterday, Hoter-Yishai said he regretted giving the interview to a publication that sometimes fights against values which are dear to all those who are students of the law.

"I have criticism of what is going on in the Supreme Court. The president of the Supreme Court is aware of this," he said. Meanwhile, the journalist who conducted the interview said he would have no choice but to publish a transcript of the tape recorded conversation, if Hoter-Yishai stood by his denial of the comments.

Prosecutor: Deri prepared false financial statement in advance of investigation

PROSECUTOR Yehoshua Resnick accused MK Aryeh Deri yesterday of preparing a falsified financial statement to give the state comptroller a year-and-a-half before the police opened an investigation against him.

Resnick charged the statement included presentation of a fictitious \$50,000 loan to Yom-Tov Rubin, and said he was basing his claims on statements made by defendant Moshe Weinberg to the police.

The court ruled that Deri's replies regarding Weinberg's statements to the police would not

be admissible if Weinberg himself did not take the stand. As a result, the defense announced Weinberg would not testify in his own defense.

Resnick questioned Deri regarding the financial statement made in 1988, with Deri explaining that the statement strengthened his claim that he had deposited the \$50,000 with Rubin, with the money returned to him later, and that the money was not a bribe as the prosecution charged.

Deri said he could not have known an investigation would be launched against him when he

filled the financial statement.

"What did I plan it?" he asked.

"Yes, I say you planned this matter of Yom-Tov Rubin's debt to you."

"I'm sorry you have the right to say whatever you think," Deri replied angrily. "If it wasn't in this framework, I think I would react entirely differently." He later added: "Your thesis is entirely false."

"I want to tell you, Mr. Deri, that I didn't pull this thesis out of one of my drawers nor did I dream it up one night, but this is what one of your close friends, Moshe Weinberg, had to say," Resnick countered.

(Tim)

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the cards were the ace of spades, the king of hearts, the eight of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

In the weekly Pasis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 460998 won NIS 1 million, while ticket 097299 was good for a new car. Tickets numbered 137795, 112164, 238594, 866796, 571127, 114801, 141742, and 621243 all were good for NIS 5,000, while those holding tickets ending in 89116; 87193, 81573, 98413, 57228, 48588, 23786, 75209, 01621, 27222, 33067, 43906, 91954, 52290, 16095, 31875, 05029, and 77286 all won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 267, 757, 950, and 199 were worth NIS 100, in 09, 07, 53 and 23 NIS 30, in 97 and 76 NIS 20, and in 0 or 9, NIS 10.

(Tim)

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- Intermission
- Mozart - Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 19 - soloist - Semion Carozin
- The Chamber Orchestra of the Education Corps and Gedna Conducted by Zev Dorman Artistic Director and Choreographer - Dami Reiter Sofer

Tickets may be ordered at the offices of the Libi Fund, Tel.: 03-569-4289, 697-5283.

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It probably does feel like torture. This new Givati Brigade recruit is currently undergoing examinations for soldiers trying out for its reconnaissance unit. The soldiers are tested under extreme conditions for their leadership qualities, cooperation in the ranks, physical fitness, stamina, work under pressure and a willingness to succeed.

Government: PA threats of violence a violation of accords

PALESTINIAN Authority chairman Yasser Arafat's repeated calls for jihad and threats of a renewal of the intifada are a fundamental violation of the Oslo Accords, the government said in a statement released Wednesday.

The statement came a day after the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee heard Maj. Gen. Oren Shahor, the government's coordinator of activities in the territories, on Palestinian charges of infringements of the accords by Israel.

"Arafat's virulent rhetoric confers legitimacy on the use of violence," the Israeli document said. In addition to calling for jihad and for renewing the intifada, "he has praised terrorists who killed Israelis after the signing of the accords, and suggested that the agreements with Israel were a tactical ploy and a prelude to a return to the armed struggle."

BATSHEVA TSUR

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THE PROGRAM ON ARAB POLITICS IN ISRAEL

A Conference on
The Arabs in Israeli Politics: Dilemmas of Identity

The conference will be held on Monday and Tuesday, 2-3 December 1996, at the Malka Brender Hall of Justice, Trubowicz Building of Law, Ramat Aviv Campus.

Monday, 2 December 1996

10:30-11:00 Coffee and light refreshment
11:00-12:30 Opening Session

Chairperson:
Dr. Martin Kramer
Director, The Moshe Dayan Center

Greetings:
Dr. Gerhard Wahlers
Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Jerusalem

Dr. Elie Rekhess
Director, Program on Arab Politics in Israel

Keynote Address:
Prof. Shlomo Avineri (Hebrew University)
National Minorities in Democratic Nation States

14:00-16:00 First Session:
The Issue of National Identity as Reflected in the Knesset Elections

Chairperson:
Dr. Yossi Shein (Tel Aviv University)
Prof. Binjamin Neuberger (The Open University and Tel Aviv University)
The Arab Vote: Between Integration and Delimitation

Dr. Marwan Darwish (Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information)
The Arabs in Israel and the Palestinian Authority: Between Their State and Their People?

Prof. Sammy Smooha (Haifa University)
Political Orientation and Collective Identity - A Re-examination

16:30-18:30 Second Session:
Religion as a Factor in Collective Identity

Chairperson:
Prof. David Menashi (Tel Aviv University)
Dr. Qays Firo (Haifa University)
Identity and Sub-identities within the Druze Community in Israel

Dr. Daphna Tsimhoni (Truman Institute, Hebrew University)
The Christians in Israel: Between Religion and Politics

Dr. Elie Rekhess (Program on Arab Politics in Israel)
Political Islam in Israel and its Affinity to the Islamic Movement in the Territories

Tuesday, 3 December 1996

09:00-11:00 Third Session
The Social Dynamics - Between Tradition and Modernity

Chairperson:
Dr. Sarah Ozacky-Lazar (The Institute for Peace Research, Givat Haviva)

Mr. As'ad Ghanem
(Program on Arab Politics in Israel, The Moshe Dayan Center and the Institute for Peace Research, Givat Haviva)
Marginals in a Marginal Society: The Bedouin Particularism.

Dr. Muhammad Anana (Bar Ilan University)
The Hamula in Arab Politics: Adaptation to Changing Patterns

Prof. Yael Yishai (Haifa University)
Arab Women and Politics: Gender or Nationalism?

11:30-13:30 Concluding Session:
The State of the Jewish People or the State of All its Citizens?

Chairperson:
Dr. Elie Rekhess
(Program on Arab Politics in Israel)

Prof. Said Zaydani (Bir Zeit University)
Arabs in a Jewish State: Their Status in the Present and in the Future

Prof. Yehoshua Porath (Hebrew University)
What is the State of All its Citizens?

Prof. Ruth Gavison (Hebrew University)
A Jewish and a Democratic State?

The lectures will be delivered in Hebrew. Simultaneous translation into English will be provided throughout the conference's lectures and discussions.

- The public is invited -

'Yediot' security officer may be charged with wiretapping

RAINE MARCUS

THE Justice Ministry recently transferred documents containing the main violations which Yediot Aharonot security officer Haim Rosenberg may be charged with, prior to a possible indictment against him on wiretapping charges.

The documents were sent to Rosenberg's lawyer, said sources at the Justice Ministry, and contain possible charges of commissioning wiretapping from private investigator Ze'ev Laufer on senior Ma'ariv and Yediot personnel.

Rosenberg will apparently be given the opportunity of a pre-indictment hearing before any charges are filed.

Evidence in hands of police and the District and State Attorney's office was provided by

Laufer, after he was charged on 13 counts of wiretapping. He was paid \$600,000 by Ma'ariv for his information against Rosenberg and Yediot publisher Arnon Mozes, and the payments were authorized by police and the District Attorney, Ma'ariv reported yesterday. Laufer decided to cooperate with police after a long silence, and after sources said that he was asked Yediot for a loan to finance his trial but was refused.

According to an amended charge sheet against Laufer, and based on his own admissions, he ordered wiretapping from private investigators Rafi Friedan and Ya'acov Tsur on the phones, cellular phones and faxes of senior

Yediot shareholders, who are in the middle of a fierce legal battle over control of the daily. Those allegedly bugged include Arnon Mozes's cousin Ze'ev (who was ousted from the daily), Tami Mozes, lawyers Meir Lifa and Ami Osnat, Oded Mozes, Judy Mozes, and other senior personnel. Laufer also told police that he was commissioned by Rosenberg to tap Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi, former marketing manager Ya'acov Kedmi and others.

Yediot was first mentioned by Ya'acov Tsur after he turned state's witness in February 1995, but police did not further the investigation until Laufer, in return for money, decided to cooperate. However Tsur's evidence is contradictory to that of Laufer's, and now problems can be expected in the series of trials in

Hebron settlers expect 'capitulation'

HERB KEINON

HEBRON settlers said this week they have confirmation "from the highest levels" that reports Israel and the Palestinians have compromised on key issues in Hebron are true.

"All the Israeli positions regarding Hebron have collapsed," said Hebron settlement spokesman Noam Amon. "We are warning that the national government is liable to destroy the community in Hebron, and we demand a total change in the agreement. The IDF will not go [in hot pursuit] into Hebron, just as it did not go into Gaza."

Another spokesman, David Wilder, said the agreement "is a total capitulation." Wilder said September's violence showed that, even though Israel may have the right under the accords to go into Palestinian areas when in hot pursuit, they will be very reluctant to use this right.

"We saw two months ago that, even after shooting incidents, the IDF was afraid to enter Palestinian territory," he said.

Wilder said the settlement leadership believes the central issue has become preemptive actions by the IDF in Palestinian-controlled areas of Hebron, not only actions after an incident. "It is difficult to believe that the agreement, as it stands now, allows for preemptive action - and that was the issue," he said.

Wilder said that buffer zones "sound wonderful," but in fact, are useless, because they allow patrols only by joint Israeli-Palestinian units, not independent

IDF patrols. "This will turn these areas into a breeding ground for terrorists, since Hamas will be able to sit there unimpeded."

According to Wilder, the buffer zones - which were not included in the original agreement on Hebron - were to include the Arab neighborhoods on hills overlooking the Jewish enclave, including the strategic Abu Snehel.

Wilder said he has not noticed anything "on the ground" in Hebron pointing to an imminent redeployment. But a Kiryat Arba official said there are reports that a number of IDF trucks were moved into the area yesterday, apparently to move equipment out of the civil administration building in Hebron.

In a related development, the heads of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza met yesterday with Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Neither side would provide details of the meeting, beyond saying that it was part of an ongoing dialogue regarding the settlements.

Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel, deputy head of the council, said that among the issues discussed were building and development in the settlements, and the eviction of the Jahalin Beduin from around Ma'aleh Adumim.

After a lengthy legal battle, the High Court of Justice ruled earlier this year that the tribe "was not Ma'aleh Adumim land, illegally, and should be moved to a site nearby."

Excavations at Castra archeological site resume, but not near graves

DAVID RUDGE

THE dispute over the removal of bones from an archaeological rescue dig at Castra, the site of a Byzantine period settlement on the southern outskirts of Haifa, to facilitate construction of the Carmel tunnel continued yesterday.

Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy on Wednesday ordered the excavations, which began in 1993 and are nearing completion, stopped immediately after demonstrations by haredim who protested that the excavations were desecrating Jewish graves.

However, the Antiquities Authority, which is carrying out the rescue dig, stressed that the remains of two churches at the site and crosses found by the graves proved that the bones were of Christians.

The trouble erupted last week after archeologists transferred 87 crates of bones from the site to the Religious Affairs Ministry for reburial, in accordance with the attorney-general's instructions.

The ministry sent a letter complaining about the "uprooting of ancient graves" to Education

Minister Zevulun Hammer, and the matter was subsequently referred to the transportation minister.

The excavations, which so far cost a total of NIS 10 million and are due to be completed by the end of 1996, are aimed at uncovering as much as possible of the site to better understand its importance and save valuable artifacts. The rest is destined to be destroyed by construction of the planned Carmel tunnel.

The multi-million dollar tunnel will cut through Mount Carmel, linking Haifa's southern access to the Checkpost Junction in the north, straight through the Castra site and all the graves there.

A Religious Affairs Ministry representative inspected the site yesterday and afterwards Levy gave instructions to resume the excavations, but not near the graves.

The Antiquities Authority noted that there were only two graves to be excavated, and without doing so and removing the bones for reburial, the tunnel project itself would be stymied.

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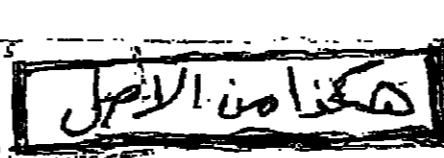
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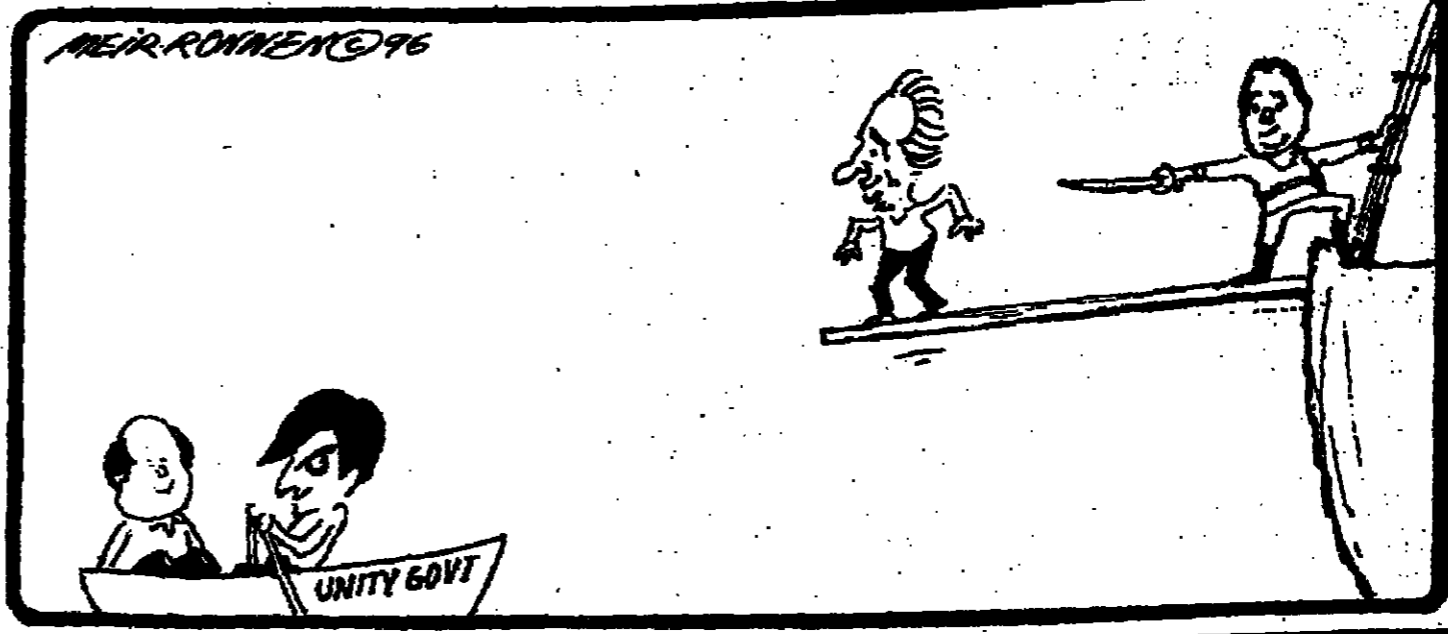
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The real threat to peace

WASHINGTON has transition fever. US President Bill Clinton was reelected, but the departure of many key members of his cabinet has this political town abuzz with who will get what in the first second-term Democratic administration in over half a century. In particular, the world is eagerly awaiting the appointment of a new secretary of state to replace the taciturn but dogged Warren Christopher.

expected to start shooting should there be a deadlock. In contrast, the Middle East peace process is becoming more and more like a Western. When the sheriff's not around, one never knows when shooting will break out next at the card table. Now, we all know that the United States is not, and does not want to be, the world's sheriff. The US carefully cultivates its dual role as Israel's staunch ally and that of an honest broker between Arabs and Israelis.



The 'man on horseback'

PROFESSIONAL democrats on the left savored a moment of triumph. A poll commissioned by the Education Ministry in 1994 found that many young Israelis yearned for a strong leader and disdained their country's party and coalition politics.

AMIEL UNGAR
is inequitable toward medium and small parties but resist any move to some form of proportionalism. Such a change, they argue, would inflict upon Britain the curse of coalition politics.

When the personalization of politics works in favor of Rabin, Ramon or Mizna democracy is promoted: when it secures the election of Netanyahu, democracy is in jeopardy. Many of those conspicuously aghast at the results of the Education Ministry's poll totally supported the call for electoral reform.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE
Sir - Dr. Luder has a valid point (Letters, November 22) when he criticizes the lack of research-based proof for the efficacy of complementary medicine.

HEBRON'S JEWS
Sir - I was shocked to read Hillel Halkin's column of November 8. A humorous Purim issue of the Post would have been a more appropriate forum for such an article based on false premises.

RABIN'S ASSASSINATION
Sir - In his November 22 column, Moshe Kohn shows us his head is so firmly implanted in the sand that his worldview has turned upside down completely. In his column, which begins with a paranoid over-analysis of recent comments by Amos Oz and Shimon Peres, Kohn concludes by extrapolating that the late Yitzhak Rabin brought about his own assassination.

GANDHI
Sir - According to Batsheva (sur November 19), President Weizman will lay a wreath on the grave of Mahatma Gandhi. This will be a most difficult task as Gandhi was cremated in accordance with Hindu tradition and his ashes were scattered over the River Ganges.

A new Labor leader - and soon

THE melodrama surrounding yesterday's Labor Party central committee meeting highlighted an old problem and a new one. The old problem is the seemingly innate inability of our top leaders to retire gracefully when they are clearly over the hill after attaining the pinnacle of long political careers.

YOSSI GOELL
His opponents are demanding that a convention be held in April. Their hope is that it will authorize postponing the election, helping them overcome Barak's lead. The present chairman, former prime minister Shimon Peres, has announced that he will not run in the next national elections in the year 2000.

We are only just now beginning to wake up to the real meaning of the supposedly "lesser evil" a bare majority of us opted for last May. By the next elections Netanyahu will for better or worse, have racked up a four-year record. It is essential that the Labor candidate who opposes him be a known quantity to the electorate.

POSTSCRIPTS

IT MAY have been the first political assassination of a goat. Police are investigating the suspicious death of a goat standing for mayor in a Brazilian town. Frederice the goat had been leading in opinion surveys in Pilar since his owner Petrucio Maia launched the animal on the campaign trail as a protest candidate.

WHAT IS the stylish Swede wearing this winter? You're not going to believe it. Ann-Kristin Antman has come up with a Stone Age design especially for the cold climate: an anorak made of urine-soaked salmon skin.

ANTMAN reassured all potential fashion victims. But although the anorak is entirely made from natural products, the price is not so basic: they're \$11,345 each.

A GRANDMOTHER who tried to help a stranger by feeding a minkskin parking meter wound up in jail instead. "I've never been arrested for anything before," Sylvia Spayton, 62, said as she left the court, where she was arraigned on charges of obstructing official business and disorderly conduct.

Quality, not quantity

RABBIS, indeed religious Jews generally, are no greater experts on Israel's military or physical security than anyone else.

But in one sphere they should be expected to be more proficient than others, and that is Israel's spiritual security, notably its specifically Jewish aspects. These may, in the end, prove the decisive factor.

Where Israel's policies are concerned I make my occasional forays into the public arena purely as a rabbi charged with promoting Jewish values.

Several such values are now at stake.

For me the pursuit of peace is a supreme Jewish ideal, second only to the preservation of life itself.

The present opposition of the religious establishment to the peace process is, as I see it, based on purely secular arguments, such as:

Ceding territory would endanger Israel's security.

Perhaps not ruling over two million disaffected Arabs would make Israel safer; it would certainly make the state more Jewish.

The old borders are indefensible.

When missiles from Baghdad can hit Tel Aviv borders become almost irrelevant. From the "indefensible" pre-1967 borders came the biggest victory in Jewish history; while the near-disaster of the Yom Kippur War sprang from the "ideal" borders of the Suez Canal and the expanded Golan area.

The Arabs cannot be trusted.

I have often advocated that territory should not be ceded until after at least five years of normal diplomatic, trade and tourist relations.

In Jewish thought we pray not to destroy our enemies but to "confound their counsel" — that is, to make them change their attitude.

I am not naive enough to believe that the Arabs have suddenly turned murderous hostility into genuine friendship. This can

IMMANUEL JAKOBOVITS

happen only if our interests converge.

Yasser Arafat knows very well that he has far more to fear from fundamentalist fellow Arabs than from Israelis. Indeed, far more Arabs than Jews have been killed by these extremists.

Arafat's security and that of other Arab "moderates" may well lie in making common cause with Israel. We should encourage such convergence of interests.

Still more important as a religious consideration is the realization that unyielding attitudes are liable to lead to another war, with — heaven forbid — catastrophic casualties dwarfing past losses. Nothing can weigh more heavily on the Jewish religious conscience, with its attribution of infinite worth to every single life, not to mention the threat to the Jewish state as a whole.

WHICH LEADS me to Israel's spiritual security, above every other consideration. To this, as religious Jews, we have everything to offer.

We ought to know, and believe, that in the long run the Jewish people cannot survive in the land of Israel without keeping faith with the Divine Covenant that conferred our claim to the land in the first place.

We must accept and proclaim with conviction the twice-daily declaration of the *Shema* that without a firm moral and spiritual foundation our people "will be destroyed from off the good land which the Lord has sworn to give

our fathers." The experience of repeated destruction and exile in our history has proved this.

Yet I suspect that many religious Jews do not genuinely believe in this warning. Many are more concerned with the quantity of the land under Jewish control — where the borders are to be — than with the quality of its Jewish life.

Preoccupied with physical power and strength, we rely on material calculations (strangely nowhere more than in religious quarters) lacking the conviction that in the end Israel's security will depend on factors we alone can contribute.

If immoral imports into Israel — lechery, drugs, marital infidelity, dishonesty and much other evil — still exceed the export of Torah from Zion religious Jews should feel deeply worried. Such a negative balance sheet spells the failure of the religious element to inspire the nation and set the tone.

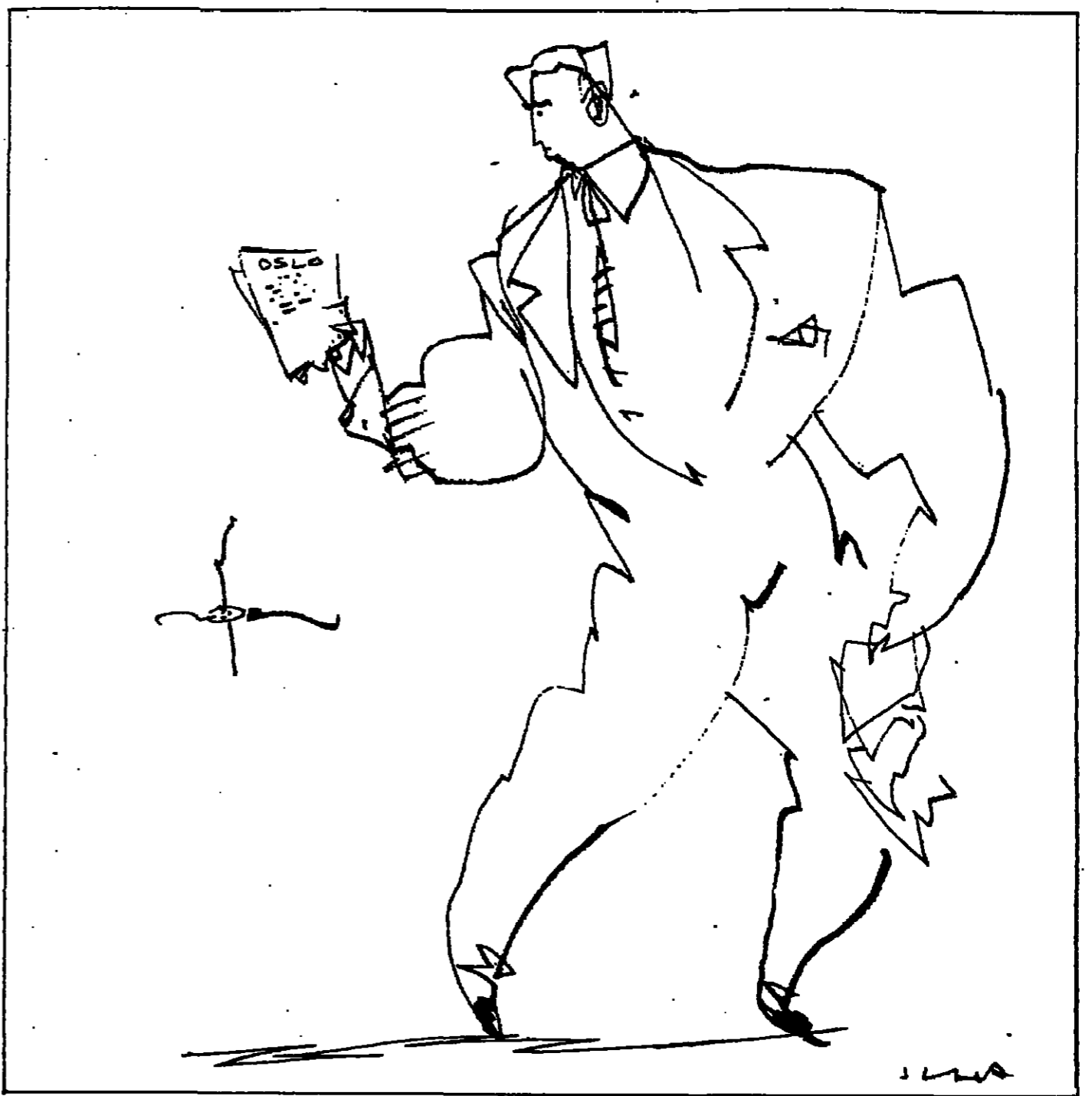
Religious Jews would have much to answer for if instead of this primary concern there were a calamitous derailment of the Jewish destiny.

I am absolutely confident that the Jewish purpose will prevail, however long it may take. After all, nearly half a millennium elapsed between Joshua's first conquest of the land and the establishment of Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem and the building of the Temple there.

Equally, I believe the peace process is irreversible, and that some concessions compatible with security will be made over the land, including Jerusalem, which will retain its status as Israel's undivided capital — forever if we so merit.

As a salutary byproduct religious Jews could regain the respect they have at present widely forfeited, a respect they need in order to be able to exercise influence on our people and its fortunes.

Lord Jakobovits is the emeritus chief rabbi of Great Britain.



Netanyahu's ticket to insincerity

YISRAEL HAREL

In every recent public speech and every press interview, particularly with the foreign press, the prime minister has made it a point to say that since he committed himself in the election campaign to honoring international agreements he would honor the Oslo agreement.

That was his "ticket," so to speak; and his integrity is now being put to the test.

But it is doubtful that even the most foolish of his followers take this statement seriously.

Had the voters wanted Oslo honored to the letter they wouldn't have thrown out the previous government but done as the international community so obviously wished and voted it in again.

After all Clinton, Chirac, Yeltsin, Mubarak, Assad, King Hussein and Arafat — and nearly every other leader — didn't hesitate to involve themselves in our domestic affairs. More than that, they conducted a near-over propaganda campaign to keep their partner Shimon Peres, visionary and architect of the agreement, in office.

No one taking the trouble to leaf through the papers from the period preceding the elections will find any specific Netanyahu promise "to honor the Oslo agreement." Only after using dentist's forceps on Netanyahu, without anesthesia, did the press manage to extract a vague, unconvincing statement about "mutual observance" of international agreements — the stress being on "mutual."

Peres and most leader writers justifiably claimed that these words contained no commitment and warned that Netanyahu had no intention of even minimal commitment.

Yet the voters, clearly prefer-

ring Netanyahu's noncommittal formulation, gave him a mandate not to honor Peres's agreement.

Netanyahu's rival... had promised to continue on the Oslo path; yet he was banished to the opposition wilderness, where he is now struggling to salvage the remains of his political career.

Why was it the unknown and inexperienced candidate who got elected?

Among other things, the voters reasoned that if after the signing of the so-called peace agreement the number of "vic-

tim of peace" far exceeded the casualties of war — the Lebanon war, for example — Peres, the man responsible for the agreement, would have to go.

More than that: they concluded that this wise and experienced statesman had committed such a calamitous failure of judgment that even a controversial novice was preferable in his place. Netanyahu, not committed to any dreadful agreement, could pull the country out of the trap in which Peres and Rabin had landed it.

The Labor Party, Peres and most of the media warned repeatedly that Netanyahu as premier would bring on a war. Yet in spite of these warnings — one might call them threats — the fact is most of the nation preferred the specter of total war brought on by the young warmonger Netanyahu to the peace of terror brought upon us

By withdrawing from Hebron the premier is betraying the decisive majority of his own voters, who wanted an alternative to Oslo

by Peres's agreement.

TODAY, a few months after Israelis showed their lack of faith in the agreement by ousting those responsible for its "fatal" consequences, the picture is one of political surrealism.

Netanyahu, elected to enact a policy alternative to Oslo, doesn't stop declaring — this time clearly and convincingly — that he is every bit as committed to the accords as his predecessors, that Hebron is only the first stage of withdrawal and that he has firmly decided to complete the process.

And other central Likud figures like Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Coalition Chairman Michael Eitan, who only yesterday were the ideological spurs of their party ("the public mustn't be deceived" etc.) now talk easily about the redeployment from Hebron.

Nothing shows up the cynical switch of these two men better than recalling that when the previous government sought to implement the agreement in Hebron Eitan moved there to help thwart its evacuation, and Hanegbi, Likud representative at the "field operations" headquarters set up by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, was among those who planned and executed the massive protest that deterred Rabin and later Peres from going ahead with the evacuation.

By withdrawing from Hebron

Netanyahu is betraying the decisive majority of his own voters, who rejected the experienced, renowned statesman, Israel's "light to the nations."

And even if Netanyahu tries very hard and makes more concessions than Peres would have dared in the face of the vociferous and aggressive opposition from the national camp Netanyahu then headed, he will never receive the recognition bestowed upon Rabin and Peres that he so desires.

And even if he returns to the '67 borders — and if he goes on as he has begun he surely will — he will always leave that impression of being "up to something," of being insincere, under pressure and vulnerable to further concessions.

I believe that this is the reason even Uzi Landau, staunch Peres opponent and among the most responsible and upright of individuals, is now committed to something that goes against the very essence of his being: a national unity government. So too Dan Meridor, who is liable as a result to lose the finance portfolio.

They, along with others from the ranks of unshakable believers in the Land of Israel, have apparently come to a far-reaching conclusion: that if a member of the Labor party, someone whom Israelis, Arabs and the nations of the world respect, doesn't stand with Netanyahu at the helm of the ship the country will sink into far greater depths than it would have had Shimon Peres been reelected.

The writer, who was longtime chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, is editor of *Nekuda*.

Reasons for the delay

SEVEN weeks ago, following the post-tunnel violence and at the urging of US President Bill Clinton, Israel agreed to begin "intense and continuous" negotiations on the implementation of the Hebron redeployment agreement.

For several weeks after that, the public was repeatedly told by government spokesmen that a new and improved agreement was close, imminent, and about to be signed in a few days, or even, according to one prediction by Foreign Minister David Levy, within a few hours.

The sanguine reports were then put on hold for a while, only to be revived this week.

But while an agreement will eventually be reached no one seems to know when that will happen, and it may be useful, while we wait, to look at the reasons for the delay.

These go beyond the usual "blame game" that is an intrinsic part of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

At the most simplistic level, anybody in any negotiation who refuses to accept the other side's demands is responsible for failure to reach agreement. In this sense, Netanyahu and Arafat are both right when they blame each other.

The real question is why there are any negotiations at all, since an agreement already existed.

Arafat may not have been happy with that agreement but he did not demand that it be renegotiated. Netanyahu, however, was holding what seemed to be the high card — control on the ground — and he insisted, both before and after the elections, that the original agreement was fundamentally flawed.

And while alleged Palestinian violations of other parts of the interim agreement, Oslo 2, legally relieved Israel of any obligations it may have had, the political reality was that the prime minister could not simply walk away from the process.

Thus he insisted instead on introducing modifications and improvements in securing a "better deal" that would justify his refusal to implement the legacy bequeathed to him by the previous government.

And since Netanyahu was elected primarily because of his promise to improve security, these modifications had to focus on security considerations.

According to public reports the major Israeli demands concern limitations on Palestinian police weaponry and on Israel's right of "hot pursuit" into territory falling under Palestinian jurisdiction.

The irony in all this, though it should have been apparent to anyone who didn't just make speeches about Oslo 2 but actually read it, is that both these demands had already been met.

Article VII of Annex I (Protocol Concerning Redeployment and Security Arrangements) clearly

MARK A. HELLER

states, in paragraph 2, subparagraph c, that Palestinian police in Area H-1 will be equipped "with 20 vehicles and armed with 200 pistols, and 100 rifles for the protection of these stations," i.e., that the police cannot wander around with long-barrelled weapons but must keep them in the stations.

As for "hot pursuit," that right, too, is already enshrined in the agreement, not just for Hebron, At stake in Hebron is not security but politics

but for all of Area A.

According to Article XI, paragraph 3, subparagraph b, "Within the territory under the security responsibility of the Council, within places where Israeli authorities exercise their security functions in accordance with this Annex and in their immediate vicinities, the Israeli authorities may carry out engagement steps in cases where an act or incident requires such action."

Such engagement does not require prior approval by or coordination with the Palestinian police; Israel's only obligation is to act with a view to transferring the continued handling of an incident falling within Palestinian responsibility to the Palestinian police at the earliest opportunity, and to notify [not coordinate with] the Palestinian police immediately.

Incidentally, Israel has not yet exercised this right, and unless the whole structure of Israeli-Palestinian relations collapses, it probably never will.

In short, Israel has already got what it wants in security terms.

True, some government sources have suggested that this is not quite enough, and that the problem is not just "hot pursuit" in response to an incident, but also anticipatory action against an incident about to be launched from

Area H-1 or even being planned there.

But if the issue is really preemption and not just a "fishing expedition," that presumes fairly precise information about the incident to be preempted — who, when, where — and if that information exists, there is no reason why it cannot be given to the Palestinian police.

What's really at stake here is therefore not security, but politics. After failing to close Orient House, agreeing to meet Arafat, and confirming that the IDF will be withdrawn from most of Hebron, the Israeli side needs to show its own public that Netanyahu's mountain of promises produced something more than a molehill of cosmetic changes in return for the time, good-will and lives that have been expended.

But the Palestinian side cannot allow its public to conclude that it conceded something "better" for the Israelis, lest that be interpreted to mean "worse" for the Palestinians.

Squaring this circle has so far baffled all of the best-intentioned mediators, including Bill Clinton, Warren Christopher, Dennis Ross, and even Jacques Chirac.

Perhaps the reason is that they have looked for some sophisticated formula that focuses on security rather than politics.

If there is any solution it probably has to be much simpler and more direct — something like an additional paragraph in the "Guidelines on Hebron" that says "Both sides affirm that this amended agreement is much better for themselves and worse for the other side, and swear by all that's holy they really mean it."

This may not be a brilliant solution, but the alternative is to hope that things don't blow up, wait until the Deri trial is over, then let a real professional sort this out.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

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Serbian opposition protests continue

SERBIA'S opposition kept up an unprecedented wave of protests yesterday as President Slobodan Milosevic's Socialist government cracked down on independent media.

Tensions were running high a day after demonstrators threw stones as well as eggs and paint bombs at state television and newspaper offices - symbols of Milosevic's autocratic rule.

Zajedno (Together) opposition coalition leaders appealed for calm.

"The victorious Zajedno coalition does not approve of that and as of today our security will prevent any similar outbreak," Vuk Draskovic, an opposition leader, said in a statement.

But protesters began throwing stones again yesterday at the state television building - dubbed the "Bastille" by the opposition.

Draskovic told crowds in Belgrade on Wednesday the issue was no longer Milosevic's refusal to accept opposition victories in local elections.

"Until yesterday we fought to protect our election victory. Now the goal of our rebellion is the resignation of Slobodan Milosevic," he said.

BETI BILANDZIC
BELGRADE, Yugoslavia

Zajedno has led more than a week of demonstrations since the authorities annulled results of a municipal poll which went badly against Milosevic's ruling Socialists.

Diplomats expressed concern the standoff could turn violent as authorities clamped down on independent radio and newspapers trying to cover the crisis.

The capital's only independent radio station, B-92, said its signal was being repeatedly jammed every time it attempted to broadcast news.

"Our signal has been jammed all day," said journalist Aleksandar Vasovic. "It's OK as long as we broadcast music but as soon as we begin the news program they start jamming us."

"We still don't know who is jamming us but our technicians strongly believe someone is using a smaller transmitter which is set on our frequency."

A 700-meter long column of opposition demonstrators walked through Belgrade yesterday in a daily protest in the capital and other major towns.

The opposition's election victory and the street protests have embarrassed Milosevic as he tries to improve relations with the West and re-cast himself as a "peacemaker."

The United States delivered a "very stiff message to Milosevic and other members of the government about our opposition to what has happened," State Department spokesman Nick Burns said in Washington.

He said US diplomats had urged Milosevic to overturn the annulment of the opposition victory and warned authorities against any "undue use of force."

Earlier, university students - who began a strike this week in Belgrade faculties - held a protest march at midday, tying up traffic.

There was a carnival atmosphere among the students as they made their way through the city, beating drums and singing.

A group of young women gave traffic police flowers which were accepted with a smile. "Bravo, kids, just go ahead," said one of the policemen.

Milosevic brutally crushed similar protests in 1991 with tanks and water-cannons. This time he faces demonstrations in several other towns across the country. (Reuter)



A Betty Boop balloon floats through New York's Times Square yesterday during Macy's 70th Thanksgiving Day parade. The balloon is 67 feet tall and holds over 15,000 cubic feet of helium. (Reuters)

Lukashenko signs new Belarus constitution into law

MARINA BAKKINA
MINSK, Belarus

BELARUS'S authoritarian president signed into law a new constitution granting him vast powers yesterday, climaxing his triumph over an opposition that brands him a dictator.

Secure in his victory, President Alexander Lukashenko derided his critics in the old, powerless parliament as "political adventurers and traitors" and posted guards outside their building.

As members of the supportive new parliament that he created this week stood and applauded, Lukashenko's signature made official constitutional changes that virtually gave him control of all branches of government and extend his term by two years to 2001.

The changes were approved by voters in a referendum last Sunday that critics called unfair and undemocratic and international monitors said was rife with violations.

Last night's signing came a day after the authoritarian Lukashenko signed a decree officially forming a new House of Representatives to replace the old parliament. Many of its deputies were lured by Lukashenko from the old body.

The new legislature has already halted parliamentary impeachment efforts against Lukashenko and passed a bill terminating the powers of the Supreme Soviet, the previous parliament. But he denied yesterday that he has

formed a puppet parliament. At a session yesterday, the new parliament showed its hard-line slant by overwhelmingly electing veteran Communist Anatoly Malofeyev as speaker. Malofeyev was a Soviet Politburo member and the republic's Communist boss before the Soviet collapse.

The pro-Lukashenko parliament then elected a staunch presidential ally, Vladimir Konoplyov, as Malofeyev's deputy. In an appeal to Belarusians, the new parliament pledged to work with the president and asked the people for support.

Lukashenko boasted to the Interfax news agency that the political opposition will now be capable of only "minor insignificant actions which will be overlooked even by opposition journalists."

He said leaders of the old parliament were only political adventurers and traitors, naming among others former Prime Minister Mikhail Chigr. Lukashenko has not yet named his new prime minister.

Meanwhile, opposition legislators were allowed into their building in downtown Minsk, but guards barred journalists and visitors from entering. The lawmakers said the guards belonged to Lukashenko's security service.

The fragmented opposition appeared to be at a loss as it tried to figure out what course to take against the president. (AP)

Algerian army shells mountains on referendum day

PARIS (Reuter) - The Algerian army shelled mountains near the garrison town of Blida yesterday, apparently to try to prevent Moslem guerrillas from disrupting a controversial referendum on a draft constitution, residents said.

The constitution would ban Moslem militants from gaining power, and guerrillas threatened before the plebiscite that they would kill anyone voting.

First official figures showed Algerians turning out in large

numbers to vote, in defiance of the threats and main opposition leaders' calls for a boycott.

Algiers-based diplomats said the government deployed more than 300,000 soldiers and policemen to guard voters across the country, five times the size of France.

Police and paramilitary forces were seen patrolling Algiers streets under drizzling rain and soldiers in combat gear manned roadblocks on main roads outside the city, witnesses said.

More than 60,000 people have died in Algeria's violence since 1992 when the authorities annulled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead.

Residents in Blida garrison, south of Algiers where the country's main military headquarters is located, said the army shelled mountains near Blida apparently to preempt a possible build-up by guerrillas.

"We heard shellfire during the night towards nearby mountains," said one Blida resident.

The Armed Islamic Group or GIA - most feared of the country's Moslem guerrilla movements - warned people not to vote, threatening to slit the throats of anyone who leaves home on referendum day.

Three hours after polls opened nearly 23 percent of more than 16 million eligible voters had cast their ballots, Algerian Radio quoted the Interior Ministry as saying.

President Liamine Zeroual, who cast his ballot at Ghazali school polling station near the presidential palace in Algiers, vowed to respect voters' decision on his proposed reforms.

"The Algerian people is sovereign. Its will should be respected," smiling Zeroual told reporters after he voted amid tight security.

Many voters were seen queuing outside polling stations in central Algiers, witnesses said by telephone.

Zeroual, a former army general, is hoping to match the 75 percent turnout reported in the election which endorsed him in office in last year.

Gen. Mladic steps down as chief of Bosnian Serb army

PALE, Bosnia (Reuter) - General Ratko Mladic formally gave up leadership of the Bosnian Serb Army yesterday, easing tensions in a power struggle between Serb civil and military authorities.

Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic presided over the ceremony, which was arranged after Mladic, an indicted war criminal, agreed to quit late on Wednesday.

Mladic wrote to the civilian leadership in the Serb government seat of Pale to confirm that he had authorized his deputy, General Manojlo Milovanovic to briefly assume command, Serb media reported.

Milovanovic's only task was to attend the ceremony where he transferred power to General Pero Galic, recently appointed by the civilian leadership.

Sitting between the two generals, Plavsic thanked Mladic for leading the Bosnian Serb Army through the 1992-95 war against Bosnia's mainly Moslem government, only hinting at the bitter dispute between politicians and top generals.

"I have verified this transfer of duties," she

said. "Perhaps it lasted a little bit long, but since a complex structure is involved, it took a bit long."

The delay stemmed from the refusal of Mladic, 52, and his staff to accept their dismissal by Plavsic.

She replaced Mladic with the little known Galic, but Mladic refused to recognize the dismissal and holed himself up in the army headquarters in Han Pijesak in a three-week standoff.

In his letter of resignation, Mladic set conditions aimed at protecting staff who had remained loyal to him.

He asked for guarantees that "the continuity of the Bosnian Serb Army will be ensured, serving soldiers could choose their futures and that families would be cared for."

He also demanded guarantees no inquiry would be launched against any soldier "who acted upon his orders" and that no action would be taken against any of them, Serb media reported.

WJC extends Nazi-loot hunt to Sweden

STOCKHOLM (Reuter) - The World Jewish Congress said yesterday that the Swedish government would help it look for evidence of unclaimed Jewish assets, possibly including looted gold, dating from World War II.

Israel Singer, secretary-general of the WJC and chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, said he had received assurances of this from Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen whom he met in

Stockholm on Wednesday. "If I didn't think there was something left here I would not have come. Yes, we do believe there is money, even gold here," Singer told a news conference yesterday.

WJC president Edgar Bronfman said during a meeting in Oslo this week that "a lot of money" had been deposited in banks in neutral Sweden by victims of the Holocaust.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Staffan Bjork said: "We were welcoming and positive and said we would help. The WJC has made no demands on Sweden, but we will meet them at the beginning of December to set the task and decide how it should be done."

Singer said the task of winning moral and material restitution to victims of the Holocaust was urgent, not least because the average age of survivors of Nazi German concentration camps in World War II was now 78.

"This was a war not only about killing people but also about taking their possessions," Singer said. "There were neutral countries which benefited from our deaths," he said, adding that Norway's response to WJC findings had been "remarkable" and Sweden's "satisfactory."

"The response of Switzerland leaves much to be desired," Singer said.

Former US Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker, who heads a commission probing Swiss banks' cooperation with the Nazis in World War II, briefed the WJC meeting in Oslo on the strategy of the commission.

Hungary grants \$25m. to Holocaust victims

BUDAPEST (Reuter) - Hungary will grant four billion forints (\$25 million) compensation to survivors of the Holocaust, a government official said yesterday.

"The special compensation coupons will be handed over to the caretaker foundation which will distribute it in the form of annuity," government spokesman Elemér Kiss told a news conference following the weekly cabinet meeting.

Some 20,000 Hungarian Jewish survivors of the Holocaust would be entitled to the annuity.

Hungary, before World War II, had an estimated 800,000 to one million Jews, one of the wealthiest Jewish communities in Europe.

Argentina central bank turns over gold transfer records to Wiesenthal Center

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - The Central Bank has turned over archives covering several hundred World War II gold transfers from neutral European countries to Argentina, a Jewish official said Wednesday.

Sergio Widder, local director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the records will be studied in Europe and the United States in an ongoing effort to track wealth stolen by the Nazis from Holocaust victims.

Widder said the archives, consisting of five volumes containing approximately 400 transactions between 1939 and 1949, were turned over Tuesday by Central Bank Vice President Martin Lagos to Shimon Samuels, the Center's director for Europe and Latin America.

Widder said the investigation also could clarify recurrent speculation that former Argentine President Juan Peron and his popular second wife Eva may have been involved in the transfer of Nazi gold to Argentina.

French truckers vote to extend strike

PARIS (Reuter) - Striking truck drivers voted to keep up their 11-day struggle on the French economy yesterday, defying government calls to return to work after talks with bosses collapsed over pay demands. Truckers maintained almost 250 barricades on main roads and tightened a blockade of the oil industry after talks broke down around midnight. The strike has brought petrol rationing in some areas, closed factories and stranded hundreds of foreign trucks.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

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The Family

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JOSEPH GANGER 77

Forest Hills, N.Y.

The funeral took place yesterday, November 28, at the Mount of Olives. Our sincere condolences to his esteemed wife Mrs. Ganger, his son, daughter and the entire family. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

With you in your bereavement,
The Rabbinical Staff and Management

We share in the mourning of
HILHEL PICCIOTTO

our brother and uncle
Dora Sutton and Family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of
SYDNEY KATZ

(ex-Nigel, South Africa)

Mourning by his Wife, Fanny (Fay) Children, Estelle and Srul, Mirna and Yinnon, Jacky and Merav, David Grandchildren, Shira, Aviv, Elitan and Shahar Sister, Rita and Milton Oasher, South Africa Brother, Monty and Rae Katz and family, South Africa Shiva at home, Rehov Gan Oz, Pardes Hanna.

With great grief we announce the passing of our family patriarch
NASSIM REUBEN SULEIMAN

Mourning by his: Wife, Sophie, Evanston, Illinois Mother, Hanina, Ramat Gan Children and their families, Hannah Cohen, Los Angeles, and her daughters Natalie and Leslie Ezra and Susan L. Suleiman, Princeton, and their sons Michael and Daniel Souad and Raymond Parnes, Tel Aviv, and their children David, Danna and Nicole Anwar and Barbara Suleiman, New York, and their children Daniela and Gabriele Bushra and Richard Rothstein, Los Angeles, and their children Sara, Joshua and Jessie Sisters, Flora Shalom, Tel Aviv, and her family Georgia and Abraham Karkooky, Ramat Gan, and their family

Michael Bentine of 'Goon Show' dead at 72

LONDON (AP) - Michael Bentine, one of the four original members of *The Goon Show*, has died at age 72.

Bentine, who had been treated for prostate cancer for the past four years, died at the Royal Marsden Hospital, a hospital spokesman said Wednesday.

"When people hear you've got cancer, they go, 'Oh my God,' but it's not all that bad," Bentine told the *Daily Mail* in 1994. "I've got an indolent carcinoma - a lazy bugger, like me."

Bentine was the son of a Peruvian immigrant and a graduate of Eton, Britain's prestigious prep school. He served with Bomber Command in World War II.

He co-starred with Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan and Harry Secombe in *Crazy People*, which premiered in May 1951 on the BBC Home Service. It became *The Goon Show* in June 1952, and Bentine dropped out at the end of the year.

"While Spike Milligan was the abstract thinker, Michael Bentine on the other hand was a superb technician," said Denis Main Wilson, a BBC producer who was involved with the show.

See it in action at Economy '97 Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, Booth 35 December 3-4

Company	Price	Company	Price
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American	1.50	Borg	1.95
Arbor	1.75	Briggs	2.15
Ashford	2.00	Briggs	2.35
Ashland	2.25	Briggs	2.55
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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, November 29, 1996

The Hebron talks – now and forever?

With each cry of 'foul,' the Hebron negotiations seem to stall. Jon Immanuel reports on the reasons behind the delay.

THE Hebron talks really began to smell bad early this week.

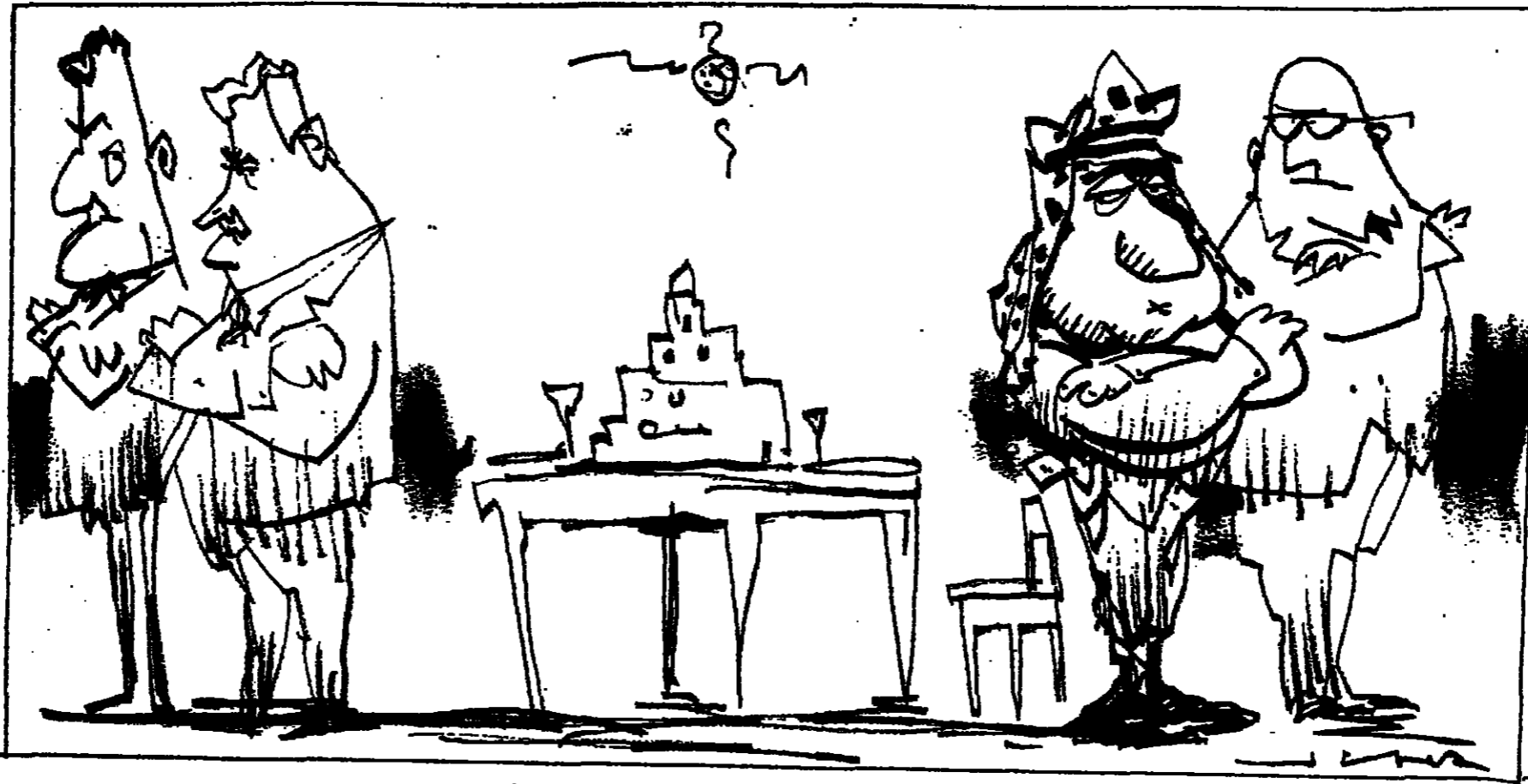
The stench began to overcome those inside the negotiating room and seep outside. Israeli and Palestinian teams were meeting, but they no longer had anything to say. Instead, both sides held their noses and sealed their lips.

The point of the talks seemed to be that the one who drew breath first would lose.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat refused to make the concession Israel demanded. Instead, he went outside and yelled "foul." It was not the first time he had done so when talks did not go his way, but this time he did it systematically and with practical consequences.

At the end of last week, senior negotiator Yasser Abed Rabbo warned at a Ramallah press conference of "total confrontation by all means" if Israel did not change its "policy of confrontation." Arafat chaired a meeting of the PLO executive committee and the PA Cabinet which ordered the reclamation of land appropriated by settlements. And after a Sabbath day of rest, Palestinian police began the week by defying the Oslo demands for coordination and directing traffic onto a Gaza road that had been closed by the IDF for the security of Netzarim settlers.

On Monday chief Hebron negotiator Saeb Erekat returned to negotiations to tell his counterparts



Dan Shomron that Israel's policies on settlements "would bury peace." All this had less to do with settlements – on which the government has been more verbal but no more practical than its predecessor – and much to do with Hebron, where the government was explicitly demanding the right of "free access" to the 80% of Hebron (known as H1) to be handed over to the Palestinian police.

"Free access" is a radical reading of the Oslo 2 agreement that arguably permits IDF access outside Israel's security zones "when an act or incident requires such action," with a view to transferring responsibility "at the earliest opportunity" to the Palestinian police.

Palestinians do not publicly accept this interpretation of the text. "It is taken out of context," Erekat says. He cites article 15, which calls on "both sides to take all measures necessary to prevent acts of terrorism directed against each other." Furthermore, the issue of "engagement" is not a specific part of the Hebron guidelines but of the overall agreement, which could be read to mean that, in Hebron, the rules applying to Ramallah or Nablus do not automatically apply.

However, this would not be the logical reading, since the Hebron guidelines are clearly meant to supplement the accord's security clauses because of the Israeli residents there, not reduce their security

Still, a senior government source admits, "We too thought the Hebron guidelines were in our favor when we started, but the Palestinians, it turned out, thought they were in theirs."

Even if the PA is being illogical, Israel's own negotiating strategy contributed to the stalemate. If the government had not opened the Hebron agreement for debate, these issues might never have arisen. From the moment the government said it wanted to strengthen the Hebron agreement, it raised Palestinian suspicions about its commitment to the existing agreement.

When Arafat accepted the idea of IDF unilateral engagement, he understood that the government he

negotiated with a year ago would far prefer to coordinate than to send in soldiers. Coordination is the core of any agreement, especially the Oslo agreement. With the Netanyahu government, Arafat was not so sure. He did not trust Netanyahu when he was elected, and he trusted him still less three months later.

The government is short on trust too. Its officials have said unilateral preemptive action was necessary so the PA would not tip off potential attackers. That is only a step away from suggesting that the police are the terrorists' accomplices, which is less than another step from saying the agreement is hardly worth the paper it's written on.

Maybe the previous government felt the same way, but was more subtle. Trust is no substitute for an agreement, but an agreement in which one side can act without prior warning in the territory of the other has its own dangers. "Without prior coordination, the soldiers could be endangered if they charged into area H1," a Palestinian negotiator argued.

There is no way to spell out in an agreement the rare situation in which an IDF violation of PA-controlled territory would be accepted

with a blind eye. That is something that only the intangible matter of trust can accommodate.

Oslo 2 was supposed to show more trust than Oslo 1. Instead of demanding extradition, Oslo 2 requires the PA "apprehend, investigate and prosecute perpetrators and all other persons directly or indirectly involved in acts of terrorism." That places more responsibility than before on the PA to ensure Israeli security.

In the past Arafat has accepted vague agreements so that his opponents could not accuse him of being stripped naked. Now he faces a government that wants to remove the veil.

In the past, Arafat has made *jihadi* speeches to restore his credibility among Palestinians, after he had already made concessions that shocked his aides. During the past two months he has made combative speeches and translated them into action precisely to prevent the government from forcing concessions on him. That is a crucial change.

Now it appears that Israel is backing away from its full demand for "free access." Palestinians are recognizing that Israel has the same right of engagement in Hebron as in Nablus (without defining that right), and that the definition of engagement would remain as fudged as the original Oslo framers decided it should be. If the talks are completed in the next week on this basis, can one name a winner?

The Palestinian Authority can say that it has conceded nothing that was not already in the Oslo agreement.

Israel can say that by arguing over hot pursuit and IDF access in Hebron, it has ensured that the PA cannot say it was unaware of the government's interpretation of those issues – if and when Israel implements them.

Hot pursuit and free access

WHAT does Oslo 2 say on hot pursuit and free access? Six articles are relevant to the issue.

Chapter 2, article 10:4, states that "Israel shall continue to carry the responsibility for external security, as well as the responsibility for overall security of Israel for the purpose of safeguarding their internal security and public order." This aids Israel's claim.

Ch. 2, art. 15 says: "Both sides shall take all measures necessary in order to prevent acts of terrorism, crime and hostilities directed against each other, against individuals falling under the other's authority and against their property, and shall take legal measures against offenders." This was much used by Palestinians to show each side is to take care of its own side without crossing the security dividing lines.

Annex 1 art. 2c calls on Palestinian police to "apprehend, investigate and prosecute perpetrators and all other persons directly or indirectly involved in acts of terrorism, violence and incitement."

Annex 1 art. 11:3a allows for Israeli engagement defined as "an immediate response to an act or incident constituting a danger to life or property, that is aimed at preventing or terminating such an act or incident, or at apprehending its perpetrators."

Art. 11.3.b: "Within the territory under the security responsibility of the (Palestinian) council, in places where Israeli authorities exercise their security functions in accordance with this annex and in their

immediate vicinities, the Israeli authorities may carry out engagement steps in cases where an act or incident requires such action. In such cases, the Israeli authorities will take any measures necessary to bring to an end such an act or incident with a view to transferring, at the earliest opportunity, the continued handling of the incident falling within the Palestinian responsibility to the Palestinian police. The Palestinian police will immediately be notified, through the relevant DCO, of such engagement steps."

Palestinians suggested at one point that Israeli and Palestinian forces could enter together in joint mobile units to deal with terrorism against Israelis from H1. But annex 1, article 3:5 states the function of the joint mobile units is limited and will "provide rapid response in the event of incidents and emergency situations, in order to ensure free, unimpeded and secure movement along their designated routes of activity, or in their areas of activity."

This leaves annex 1 art. 7, which is called "Guidelines for Hebron." This mostly spells out the differences between Hebron and other Palestinian towns turned over to the Palestinian Authority. It does not mention engagement, but repeats the wording of ch. 2, 10:4 that "Israel will continue to carry the responsibility for overall security of Israel." It even permits Palestinian police to act "outside this area," that is, H1, after coordination with the DCO in an apparent gesture of reciprocity. J.J.

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Heading toward disaster

Netanyahu is going down a dangerous path, says Yigal Carmon, a leading critic on the right. Steve Rodan reports

For several years, Yigal Carmon was seen as the prophet of doom who warned that the Oslo accords would lead to Israel's demise. Today, Binyamin Netanyahu is prime minister and Carmon says he's shocked that the Likud premier is continuing down the Oslo path.

Carmon, 51, who served as counterterrorism adviser under prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and Yitzhak Rabin and was a member of the 1992 Israeli negotiating team with Syria, has taken off the gloves toward Netanyahu, whom he consulted with when the Likud was in opposition.

Although he has served less than six months as premier, Netanyahu is more than a disappointment to Carmon. His policies, he says, are dangerous. Carmon's views are echoed privately by many Likud and coalition MKs and even among some who work with the prime minister, who privately consult with Carmon on Palestinian issues.

Carmon says he's disgusted by what he calls Netanyahu's new approach to the Hebron talks, where after months of negotiations the government has conceded on its demand to allow the IDF to pursue terrorists inside the PA-controlled portions of the city.

"His behavior is dangerous to Israel's security because he is educating the Arabs that [if they use] force, violence and pressure will force us to knuckle under," he says. For Carmon, who remains close to senior government officials, including several ministers, the alarm bells went off immediately following Netanyahu's election.

"There is a problem with a prime minister whose deeds are not connected to his words," Carmon says in his Jerusalem apartment. "When he says reciprocity and a day after the elections, he ignores all of the PLO violations, there is a problem." Fluent in Arabic, Carmon, who spent years in military intelligence and also served as deputy head of the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria, points to a report in the Jordanian daily *al-Dustour*.

After the elections, Netanyahu ordered Dore Gold to telephone the PLO's Mahmoud Abbas, otherwise known as Abu Mazen. The message, the newspaper said, was that the program of the new government would not be that of the Likud's anti-Oslo electoral campaign.

Gold, *al-Dustour* reported, asked the PLO to stop expressing suspicion that Netanyahu would end the peace process, and in return, the Likud would stop criticizing the Oslo agreements. In addition, Netanyahu pledged to continue all of the tracks of the Middle East negotiations, including those with Syria.

rized over the results of the elections, was then meeting and considering sending Bibi [Netanyahu] congratulations." Carmon, recalling the *al-Dustour* report, says, "When they saw the message to Abu Mazen, they understood that there is no need to be forthcoming anymore. The government committed itself to Oslo on condition. But it discarded the condition."

Privately, some Labor Party sources agree that despite their badgering, Netanyahu met Arafat far too early in his premiership. "Rabin believed in dealing with Arafat when he was weak," a Labor Party source active in security issues says. "Bibi met Arafat right at the beginning and gave him the legitimacy that increased Arafat's strength without getting back anything in return."

The result, Carmon says, is that the Netanyahu government is losing its credibility on all fronts. Take the pledge by the Likud leader for a different approach on Palestinian terrorism than the cooperation with the Palestinian Authority stressed by Peres and Rabin. "There is no change," Carmon says.

"The last government accepted the PLO-Hamas dialogue, support and joint cooperation. If there was something in the Peres government which was most destructive in the battle against terrorism it was the acceptance of the PLO-Hamas accord. They denied the existence of the January 21 agreement. The current government doesn't deny it. It does worse. It accepts it."

The response by the prime minister's office to Yigal Carmon's assertions was brief. "These are wild accusations and they do not merit a response," David Bar-Ilan, director of policy planning and communications in the Prime Minister's Office, says.

Carmon dismisses the assertion of General Security Services chief Ami Ayalon that Israel has significantly increased its effectiveness against Palestinian terrorism. He also rejects the explanations of Islamic terrorist leaders that the PA has foiled terrorist attempts.

"Arafat succeeded in reaching an understanding with Hamas," Carmon says. "He says there is a dialogue. We have a decision. The understanding is that the PA leads the struggle and if they don't get what they'll want, they'll go together. And after the Al Aqsa battles, he was proud of it. What Islamic Jihad and Hamas are giving as reasons for not carrying out terrorist attacks sounds like an

agreed-upon pretext to help out Arafat, who is releasing the organizations' members, with the Israelis."

Carmon is convinced that Netanyahu simply doesn't have a policy. He recalls Netanyahu boasting to the Likud Central Committee last summer how he refused to meet Arafat until his conditions were fulfilled. When Arafat and Netanyahu finally met in September, Carmon realized that the prime minister had met Arafat's demands. These included Israeli pledges to implement Palestinian safe passage of vehicles and people between the West Bank and Gaza, the construction of a Gaza airport and a guarantee that Israel would negotiate on the final status of the territories.

"When I hear the prime minister say everything he does is planned, it's clear that it's all improvised," Carmon, who speaks in a soft and plaintive tone, says. "I see no policy. Bibi demanded safe passage, prisoner release, Dahania airport as his conditions to meet Arafat? This is planning? The level of planning is a sad joke. I think the lack of policy is not a matter of advisers. It is a reflection of the prime minister."

Carmon has a list of examples of what he says represents Netanyahu's waffling. One of his favorites regards a recent meeting between Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and the PA's Faisal Hussein, who is entrusted with Jerusalem affairs by the PA. "They agreed to maintain an open line on eastern Jerusalem," Carmon recalls. "Isn't the municipality responsible for a united Jerusalem? This is an open line to divide Jerusalem. And where is Bibi? He says nothing. He lets it go."

For Carmon, the Israeli-Palestinian accords are certain disaster for the Jewish state. The basis for the agreements is that Israel thought it could solve relatively minor disputes with the Palestinians and leave the crucial ones for later - in the hope that this would create an atmosphere of trust.

"The Peres people tried to solve the 1967 problems with the PLO, which represents the insoluble problems of 1948. They thought that the Palestinians would discard the 1948 problems. They haven't."

"The Palestinians today have four basic demands: self-determination, a Palestinian state, Jerusalem, and the right of return into pre-1967 Israel. Self-determination is the right of people to determine their destiny wherever

they live. This means if there are Arabs in Galilee the right to self-determination applies to them as well. This has greater ramifications than their demand for an internationally recognized Palestinian state. So, unlike the assessment of the Peres people, this process does not end with a Palestinian state and Jerusalem."

Carmon understood Netanyahu's electoral campaign, in which he announced that he accepted the Oslo accords but would press for Palestinian implementation of their commitments. What worries him is that despite the prime minister's rhetoric, Israel is heading toward an agreement with the PA on Hebron without the Palestinians honoring their previous commitments. The result is that the US and the West are becoming convinced that Israel will continue to concede territory regardless of whether it gains peace.

"During the election campaign, the Likud changed its position to one of conditional acceptance of Oslo," Carmon says. "I think that this conditional acceptance can prevent us from a confrontation with the international community. I think the world, however, is stunned that Bibi doesn't insist on the conditions."

"I think the Left knows Bibi changed his views totally although they won't admit it in order to increase the pressure." The lesson has not been lost on the Palestinians or the other Arabs.

For Carmon, the most stunning gesture came at the end of the September meeting with US President Bill Clinton, King Hussein and Arafat at the White House. Netanyahu clasped Arafat's hand, called him a friend and partner and pledged to continue the Hebron talks.

At that moment, Carmon says, Netanyahu lost his moral standing. "How could Bibi have called Arafat a partner and friend in Washington while the blood of 16 Israeli soldiers was still fresh and he knew from the intelligence services that this man was responsible for the attacks?" he asks. "As the father of a son in the army, I was shocked. It was as if Bibi had accepted the Palestinian cold-blooded murder as a legitimate response to the opening of the tunnel."

The Arabs concluded quickly, Carmon says, that the PA police of at least 30,000 officers augmented by tens of thousands of others with firearms, can be a significant force in any future Arab-Israeli war. "Arab and Palestinian military analysts say there has been a strategic change for the first time in 50 years," Carmon says.

"And that is that within Israel there is now a Palestinian force capable of creating damage and tying up large amounts of Israeli troops. This might be the 50 grams that would change the Arab-Israeli strategic balance in their favor."



Carmon: As if Bibi accepted cold-blooded murder as legitimate response (Sarit Uzely)

Understanding the Arabs

YIGAL Carmon, who now spends much of his time heading a group called Palestinian Media Review, which monitors Palestinian electronic and print media, says the Arab media have become more sophisticated today than during the 1950s. Then they mostly repeated the cry of throwing the Jews into the sea. But now as then the Arab media are an indicator of the direction a regime is heading.

"The media are the tool of the regime," he says. "All the Arab media receive instructions on what to write on political issues, directly and indirectly. When it comes to what the regime expresses, it is done in the most uncritical and authoritative way possible."

When Carmon began recording and distributing Palestinian television more than two years ago, he was ignored. Then-foreign minister Shimon Peres suggested that the video footage of Arafat praising Hamas suicide attackers and calling for jihad, or holy war, against Israel either didn't exist or was staged. Eventually, Peres acknowledged that the PA chief was saying such things.

"Jihad can be interpreted in a metaphorical sense," says Carmon. "But Arafat in his speeches chooses the interpretation he wants when he says jihad through martyrdom. Arafat is specific. It has one meaning. As [Hebrew University professor Yehoshua] Porat says there is no way to liberate Jerusalem with a jihad that means the cleansing of the soul."

"All of Arafat's discourses are from the Koran. He recites the passages of the Koran used by Mujahadeen from Afghanistan to Algeria. 'God has bought from the believers their souls and property for they shall inherit paradise. They shall fight for the cause of Allah and they shall kill and be killed.' He has adopted the language of the Hamas." Intelligence and Arab-affairs experts agree that such rhetoric cannot be dismissed but is divided whether it should be taken literally. "I would say that 40 to 50 percent of what Arafat says must be taken seriously," Ya'acov Perry, former GSS chief, says. "When Arafat talks about Jerusalem then he is to be taken at face value."

Carmon says that we know the Arab mentality well enough to understand the meaning of these broadcasts. "We understand them. The key problem is the understanding by our leaders. There is no substitute for the need of our leaders to understand history."

"When Peres says you can't learn from history, it's a tragedy. When Bibi doesn't learn from this, the tragedy continues. We understand the Arabs but many of us come with a myriad of arguments that makes us lose the significance of what they say." S.R.

He's the one who's not a household name

Tom Tugend profiles Joel Singer, the little-known, yet key, player behind the Oslo accords

IN August 1993, while the top-secret Oslo negotiations between Israel and the PLO were in their final stages, then foreign minister Shimon Peres and Joel Singer flew to a hush-hush meeting with vacationing US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The two Israelis suggested that the Oslo accord on mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO would win widest acceptance if it were presented as an American

initiative, which both sides would immediately accept.

"Christopher turned us down on the grounds that an American secretary of state does not tell lies," says Singer.

Even so, the historic Declaration of Principles was signed in a White House ceremony two weeks later, with Singer standing next to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as he initiated the agreement, together with President Clinton and Chairman

Arafat.

Joel Singer is hardly a household name, but for the last 18 years, the 46-year-old Israeli attorney has played a crucial, though largely off-stage role in all Israeli peace moves, from the 1978 Camp David accord with Egypt to more recent arbitrations at Taba.

Born in Tel Aviv, and a graduate of Tel Aviv University's law school, Singer joined the Israeli Defense Force in the early 1970s and soon was named director of the IDF's international law department.

Until 1989, when he resigned with the rank of colonel, Singer served as a non-political expert on security and international affairs under six Israeli defense ministers.

During that time, "I wrote two-thirds of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty," Singer says. He followed this up as a key player in agreements with Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and in economic and political negotiations with many other countries and international organizations.

After he left the IDF, Singer accepted an offer from the Washington-based international



Joel Singer (David Rubinger)

law firm of Sidley & Austin. His main portfolio was as legal representative of Israel's Defense Ministry in the United States, and in that position he helped negotiate the US-Israel strategic cooperation agreement.

The most dramatic turn in Singer's career opened in May 1993, when he received a phone call in his Washington office from Shimon Peres. The Israeli foreign minister asked Singer to fly to Jerusalem for a one-day review of some secret proposals which had been hammered out by two Israeli academicians and three top PLO



Foreign minister Shimon Peres signs peace agreements September 13, 1993, on the South Lawn of the White House. Looking on are former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, President Bill Clinton and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat - and Singer.

officials in Oslo. Although Singer criticized some parts of the proposals, he judged that the PLO was a serious negotiator and that the contacts should be continued.

Barely returned to Washington, Singer got another call from Peres, asking him to meet with Prime Minister Rabin and then to embark on a three-month shuttle

between Jerusalem and Oslo as the newly appointed legal adviser to the foreign ministry.

Of the sleepless summer months in 1993, while PLO and Israeli negotiators were hammering out an agreement, Singer recalls one cliffhanger in particular.

On August 19, three days before the two sides were to initial the agreement, five points

remained in dispute. To break the deadlock, Peres flew to Stockholm and secretly asked the Norwegian foreign minister to join him.

Around midnight, the Norwegian and Swedish foreign ministers arrived at the back door of the guest house where Peres was staying and the area was sealed off, even to other members of Peres's entourage.

A telephone link was established between Stockholm and Tunis, where Arafat and his top advisers manned the other end of the line.

For the next five hours, until 5 a.m., Singer recalls, "I conducted the negotiations. Peres caught some sleep, but I woke him up twice to get his opinion."

As a man in the thick of Israel's most momentous diplomatic efforts under administrations ranging from prime ministers Menachem Begin to Rabin, Singer is in an exceptional position to comment on the different negotiating approaches of the Likud and Labor governments and on the future prospects of the Oslo agreements.

"Though their actual differences are not that great, Labor and Likud view an ultimate settlement with the Palestinians from different perspectives," says Singer.

"Labor wants to separate Israel from densely populated Arab areas and is willing to give up territory to do so, while Likud views this more as a security issue and wants a close linkage between Israel, the West Bank and Gaza."

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The service stations will soon be closed for a lengthy period of time.
The invitation to citizens to appear at the stations is mandatory, under force of law.
The service stations are open from Sunday to Thursday, 1 - 8 p.m.
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The angry face of the Sphinx

Border skirmishes and the burning of Israeli flags could result from the growing Egyptian hostility towards Israel, according to Professor Yoram Meital. David Rudge reports

If the stone-carved face of the colossal Sphinx near the pyramids at Giza was capable of expressing the feelings of the moment in Egypt, its brow would no doubt be creased in a frown. Perplexity, concern, and even anger would be the emotions delineated on the features of a lion's body. The Sphinx, however, has remained unchanged in its equanimity over the millennia. The same cannot be said of relations between Egypt and Israel - especially not at this juncture in time.

The prevailing mood in Egypt, according to some analysts, is such that the future of the 17-year-old peace treaty, which heralded a new epoch of hope after decades of strife, might be in jeopardy. Dr. Yoram Meital, from the department of Middle Eastern Studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and a leading expert on Egypt, is among those who are concerned about current trends in the land of the Pyramids and where they might lead.

Meital views the caustic attacks in the Egyptian press on the government of Prime Minister Ruyamita Netanyahu, and other recent events, as signs of the crisis in relations that has developed over the past few months, and appears to be steadily worsening.

According to Meital, the heart of the problem, from Egypt's point of

view, lies in the stalemate in the peace process. Egypt, as the leading proponent of Arab interests, has publicly committed itself to promoting the process on all fronts, and particularly the Palestinian and Syrian-Lebanese tracks.

"Against this background, relations between Egypt and Israel have reached crisis points in the past - notably during the Lebanon war and the intifada," said Meital.

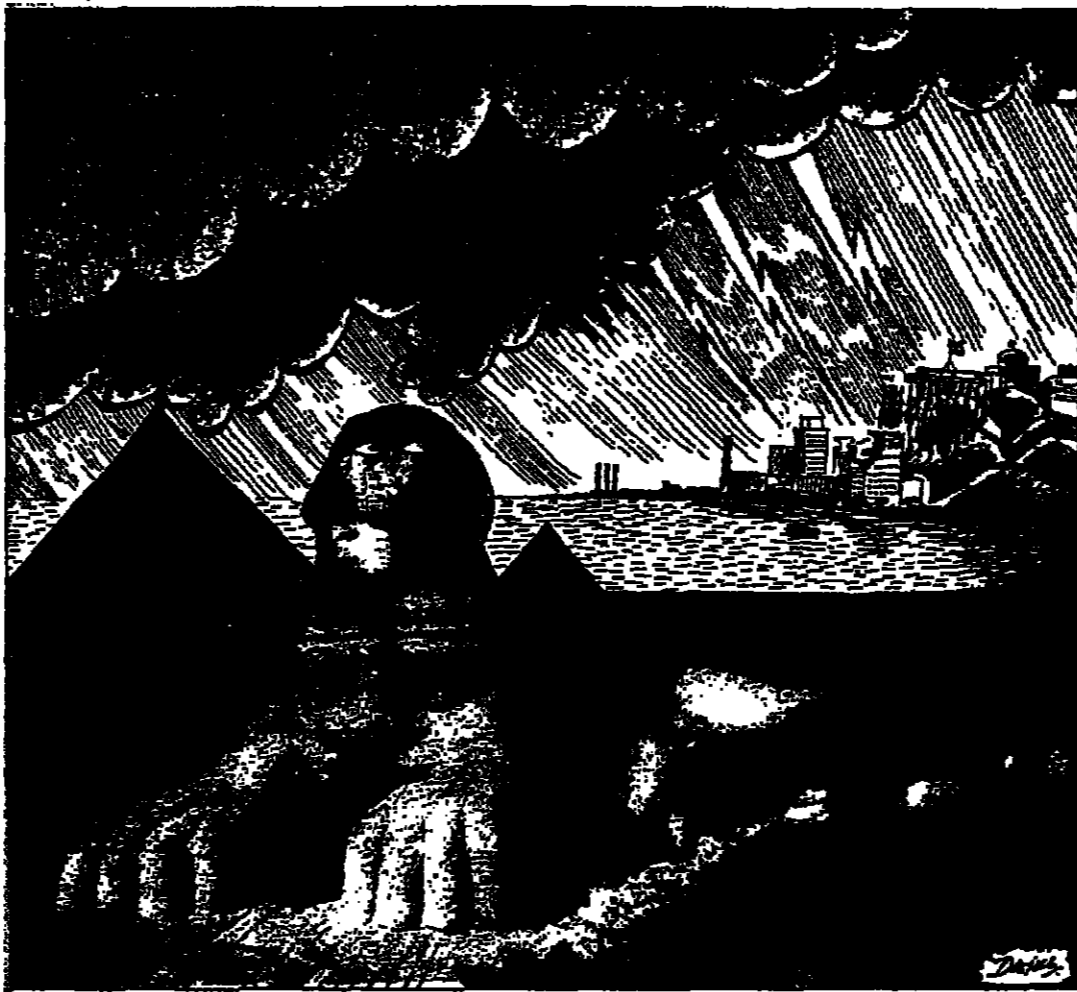
"The opening of the Oslo talks, however, and subsequent signing of agreements, contributed a great deal to improving ties between Cairo and Jerusalem.

"Even though the Egyptians had reservations about Israel's perceived role in the new Middle East vision of the previous government, they believed that the peace train was on the right track."

Since the elections, Egypt's attitude towards Israel has taken a decided turn for the worse - primarily because of what the leadership there sees as the provocative policies and statements of the Netanyahu government.

"The Egyptians tried to give the new government a chance, and the prime minister was invited for talks with President Hosni Mubarak," said Meital.

"Following that meeting, relations between the two countries have deteriorated sharply and Mubarak has stated, more than once, that he



feels he was betrayed by Netanyahu over the latter's promises to push forward the peace process.

Instead, the Egyptians have seen delays in the peace process which lead them to believe that the government in Israel is merely trying to buy time, as well as statements regarding expansion of settle-

ments in the territories and on the Golan, and about the unity of Jerusalem.

"A reassessment of the situation has taken place in Egypt, and there is the feeling now that the present government is trying to change the track of the peace train and load it with a different, and from Egypt's point of view, unacceptable,

among the decision-makers in Egypt is that if the present trend continues, the two pillars of peace - certainty and stability - will be rocked to their foundations.

This has serious ramifications for Egypt itself, which only now is beginning to feel the benefits of an economic resurgence following all the reforms and changes that were implemented after the Gulf war.

"Inflation has dropped and foreign investment is increasing, while the Egyptian pound and the country's balance of payments have stabilized.

"The Egyptians are concerned that a continuation of the stalemate in the peace process will lead to a deterioration in the situation of the region generally, which, in turn, would adversely affect the prospects of Egypt's own economic development.

"A collapse of this process is something the Egyptians would want to avoid at all costs because of its potential effect on the regime itself."

For these reasons, Meital is concerned that the present crisis in Egyptian-Israeli relations cannot be dismissed, as some analysts and politicians have done, as just another "passing cloud." This is minimizing the situation, because this crisis, at this particular time, is far more complicated and sensitive than those that have occurred in the past, he said.

Meital believes the attacks on the government in the Egyptian press, the warnings by senior Egyptian officials of freezing normalization of ties with Israel if new settlements are established, and even the aggression of Egypt's handball team in its "game" with Israel's national squad, are symptoms of the ailing relations. In his opinion, the rhetoric is likely to increase if the deadlock in the peace process continues, and

Egypt will intensify its efforts in the diplomatic arena - especially with the US - to depict Israel as the "bad boy" of the Middle East.

"The elections in the US are over and the Egyptians will be pressing the old-new administration of President Bill Clinton to adopt a firmer attitude towards continuation of the Middle East peace process - especially regarding Israel's statements over enlargement of settlements and the unity of Jerusalem," said Meital.

"We can expect to see Egypt being very active, in an imaginative way, on the international stage, particularly in the UN, and with the US and the Arab nations.

"Egypt will undoubtedly try to persuade the Americans that their own interests in the Middle East generally could be threatened in the event of instability resulting from the stalemate in the peace process. If the deadlock persists, then relations with Israel are likely to deteriorate, with the prospect of more rhetoric in the press which in turn could lead to anti-Israel demonstrations in the streets and even the burning of the Israeli flag. There might even be incidents on the border.

"There is also the possibility, after exhausting all diplomatic and political avenues, that Egypt might decide on a partial or full break in ties - starting with calling back its ambassador for consultations.

"If the escalation were to continue, it could lead to the collapse of all that has been attained so far and even to military confrontation. I don't see Egypt declaring a state of war tomorrow, and certainly not until all other avenues have been exhausted, but in the long term, if no progress is made towards a comprehensive peace, such a prospect cannot be ruled out completely."

IDF finds a willing soldier ... in Chile

FOR months, as we watch motivation steadily drop, the focus has been on the growing number of Israeli youth evading military service or opting for non-combat tasks. But there are those who are highly motivated and willing not only to serve in elite forces, but who have left their families and homes abroad and come to Israel to defend the state.

Camp Bezek is the camp of the IDF corps. Its squat, dull-colored barracks permeate little warmth. Cypress trees, their trunks painted white, creak and moan and sway like soldiers on guard duty. This time of the year, its broken cement paths are often scuffed with that sticky Samarian mud, and the only color besides fatigue green to be found is on the parade ground - and that happens to be the gray hulks of

While motivation in the army is at an ebb, Arieh O'Sullivan met three immigrant 'lone soldiers' whose will to defend is second to none

He invested a year and a half studying Hebrew so he would be able to "fit in." "I knew that in order to be in the IDF I would have to think in Hebrew," he says, adding that he saw military service as a gateway to a successful absorption into Israeli society. "I know guys who came to Israel, did the army and then left. But I don't

friend in a rented flat in Tel Aviv. Before joining the army he worked at McDonald's. They plan to settle in Israel and raise a family. But duty called first, he says. "I don't like it when someone is defending me and I do nothing," says Galemiri, 21. Among Chile's 20,000 Jews, he comes from the small town of Vina del Mar where

an attached grenade launcher over his shoulder, and holding the hand of his girlfriend, Galemiri nonchalantly strolls into Tel Aviv's Beit Sokolov building before heading back to his base after a weekend leave. He kisses her goodbye. "I don't feel I am better than anyone. Perhaps I have more motivation because I was born here," says Galemiri, who dropped out of university after a year of studies to come to Israel and join the army.

Galemiri was accepted into the elite "Cham" demolition unit of the Golani Brigade. Grunau got into "Orev," the anti-tank reconnaissance unit. All belong to the army classification of "lone soldiers," soldiers who have no close relatives in the country. The loneliness was most felt during IDF ceremonies, such as when they were sworn into the Golani Brigade. While parents, grandparents and siblings of their sabra counterparts flooded the base, bearing sweets and baskets of food, no one came for them. "I had the wrong army address. I had a lot of things sent to me [from Canada] but I didn't get any of them. It is all floating around somewhere and I'm sure someone else has had a good feast, but not me," says Grunau.

THE IMMIGRANT soldiers are older and more mature than their Israeli counterparts, and in many instances, they are older than their commanders as well. It's awkward. It's sometimes embarrassing. But they find they cope better since they've cut the umbilical cord way before their platoon mates. "The Israeli mothers do everything for their kids. Suddenly our commanders are telling them they are nothing, insignificant, and that breaks them. I've been away from my family for a long time. I am not homesick," says Weisman, who has a twin brother in college in the US. "He doesn't understand my motivation. He couldn't. He's never been here."

Grunau says being the "grandfather" of his platoon had its drawbacks. "They think it's kind of funny that this guy from Canada joins them in the dirt. They joke about it, but they definitely respect and appreciate it, and in a way get a boost that there are people like me," he says. The hard part comes when they go home on leave. Where many sabra soldiers dump their dirty laundry at their mother's feet, they spend their time washing their uniforms and running to the supermarket before it closes for Shabbat.

David studied Hebrew at ulpan Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael for four months, before being drafted for the 18 months he has to serve. He acknowledges that he still hasn't mastered the language, but says the army must have thought it was good enough to conscript him. The immigrants still count in their mother tongues and as for the languages in their dreams: "We don't get enough sleep to dream," Grunau says.

Grunau's grandfather died during basic training and he was allowed to return for the week of shiva. It took a lot of motivation to return to the mud of Bezek from the tempting comfort of Vancouver. "A trip

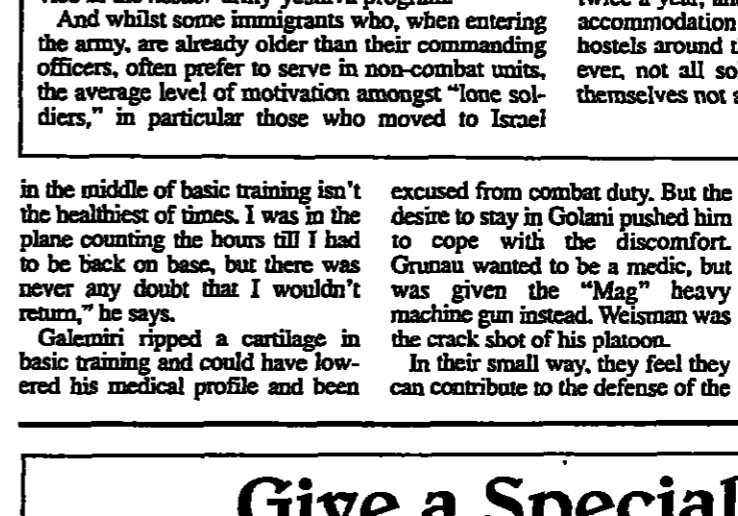
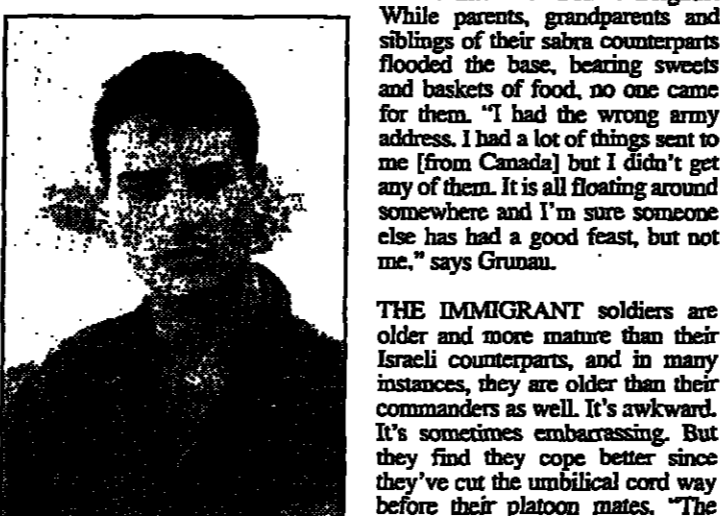
through their own volition, is rumored to be the highest in the IDF.

The IDF is aware of the difficulties, and therefore grants a "lone soldier" certain rights, but in actuality, they may find that logistics and circumstance (or just unsympathetic officers) may prevent them from receiving these rights.

A "lone soldier" earns NIS 500 a month, twice the regular soldier's salary. He or she is partially reimbursed the rent for an apartment, if the option to be adopted by a kibbutz or a family has not been taken up.

As well as a free day every two months to sort out personal matters, the "lone soldier" is given a 21-day leave per service year to go abroad and visit his or her family. And worried parents can keep a slightly closer tab on their serving children, courtesy of a bimonthly three-minute international phone call paid for by the IDF.

The Soldier's Welfare Association and the Shekem company give "lone soldiers" presents twice a year, and the association also provides free accommodation and meals for them in soldier's hostels around the country. Despite this care, however, not all soldiers are joking when they label themselves not as "lone," but as "lonely."



(From left): Chilean Rodrigo Galemiri, Canadian David Peter Grunau and American Paul Weisman stick it out despite loneliness. Says Galemiri: 'A soldier who isn't scared is not really a good soldier, because he isn't thinking.'

Soviet-built armor and heavy weapons taken as war booty from Beirut in 1982 back to this base, home to the crack Golani Brigade.

It lies in a horseshoe-shaped valley southeast of Jenin, and should one care to look up, the Hills of Gilead are to the east. But for recruits, the surrounding hills are meant for climbing, usually with a duffel bag, or two, on their backs, and tent-poles in their hands, to rebuild their camps on the peaks, in the Golani method of instilling discipline.

Life is no picnic at Camp Bezek. It's a long way from Cleveland, Ohio, hometown of Paul Weisman, one of the newest members of the Golani Brigade. On orders, he breaks from his formation on the parade ground and double times over to a patch of grass to talk about his route to this particular site in the Promised Land. "I decided to make aliyah after high school," says Weisman, who turned 21 last month. "My parents wanted me to go to college, but I knew I wanted to be here."

want just that."

David Peter Grunau, 24, from Vancouver, Canada, has a university degree in math. He could be in medical school now, but instead he is crawling around in the mud of basic training. Fellow platoon mates remind him of this and he tells them they are absolutely right. "We laugh at it because it does seem a ridiculous situation at times," Grunau says. "To tell you the truth, I don't necessarily plan to spend the rest of my life here. Coming and joining the Israeli army was an important thing for me to do," he says. "Afterwards I plan to go back to study medicine in Canada."

there are only 400 Jews. He has two years to serve. "Among my friends in Chile we would say either the paratroopers or Golani. I read books and I decided Golani," Galemiri says.

THERE IS no shortage of volunteers for Golani, but this secular American, Canadian and Chilean stand out. They not only volunteered for a combat unit, but have made it to elite companies in the brigade. Weisman's commanding officer, Lt. Zohar, spoke highly of "my American," saying he was quick to help and caught on quickly. "But he's a bit of a Rambo. He's seen too many movies," the young lieutenant says.

As Golani soldiers, Grunau, Galemiri and Weisman will most likely find themselves based, at one point, in Lebanon - Israel's last active front. It is here, where there is the possibility of armed confrontation with a deadly enemy, that they will put into practice what they are being taught now.

Is that first firefight something young men anxiously await? "Every time I go home I ask myself whether I should continue or not. I always come to the conclusion that I do have to go on, and that I am satisfied. If I have to die for the country I will die. Of course I am scared. A soldier who isn't scared is not really a good soldier, because he isn't thinking," says Galemiri.

Toting his M-16 assault rifle with

excused from combat duty. But the desire to stay in Golani pushed him to cope with the discomfort. Grunau wanted to be a medic, but was given the "Mag" heavy machine gun instead. Weisman was the crack shot of his platoon.

In their small way, they feel they can contribute to the defense of the state. "As a grain of sand in the sea," Grunau says. "Everything else is necessary. But it's like a movie. You have the actors and then the camera crew and everyone else that make it all possible. You can't have one without the other, but the key of the army is the fighters."

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THE JERUSALEM POST
International Edition

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The Illegal Camera: Candid shots of the Nazi regime

AMY KLEIN

IN the last week of its six-month tour at the Jewish Museum in New York City, the photographs of the exhibit "The Illegal Camera: Photography in the Netherlands during the German Occupation (1940-1945)" in their uncharacteristic simplicity and understatedness, evoke a different kind of horror: the realization of what daily life was like under occupation.

This collection of mostly black-and-white pictures is named after "The Hidden Camera," an exhibition produced immediately after the liberation of the Netherlands by a group of underground photographers in Amsterdam, who had come together in 1944. They are among the photographers of this exhibition, which also includes pictures from around the Netherlands by people whose method of resistance was their photography.

One of the first things the Nazis did when they invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, was to set up their process of *Gleichschaltung* — the penetration of Nazi ideology into all areas of national life.

"During a war, news should be given out for instruction rather than information," Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, once said.

In the Netherlands, this policy was implemented within days of the invasion. First, Jewish members of the Netherlands Press Agency were fired. Next, the Dutch press was forced to publish on the front page: "During the occupation by the military

authorities, Dutch publications will appear without any prior censorship. This lenient press policy is a result of the absolute loyal predisposition of the publishers and editors."

The license to practice journalism was compulsory membership of the Union of Dutch Journalists (VNI), which excluded Jews. Soon, all photographers were included in this edict — it was as if, for the Nazis, there were no photos, as if it was not happening.

Forbidden subjects included photos of Jews or half-Jews, photos that showed compassion for Jews, photographs of people of mixed blood and colored people, and photos of people hostile to the Axis powers.

Photos of American movie stars were also forbidden, as were those of French and Belgian fashion, photos and drawings romanticizing English history, and any photos taken by Jewish press agencies including the archives.

Landscapes, ports, photographs of a general nature, and pictures that portrayed the "goodness" of the Nazi Empire were considered very desirable, and as the war progressed, were the only ones published.

It became nearly impossible to take pictures. Aside from the fact that permissible subjects were sparse, one could get arrested for roaming the streets with a camera in search of a photo-op. Also, shortages of photos and film stock material impeded all but the most

resourceful, determined photographers.

Some photographers hid their cameras. One, Meo Huizinga, who took 134 pictures of the evacuation and demolition of the Hague with a camera hidden in a cheese container which had the word "Komeet" written on it. The hole punched through the letter "o" made way for the Leica lens.

Others, like Ed Van Wijk, took pictures from window ledges or behind windows — pictures obstructed by wayward phone wires, or skewed from the angle of an inconvenient hiding place.

The subjects of the photographs catalog different aspects of the war: war operations — such as the picture of confiscated bicycles or church bells being stolen; German occupation — street scenes of passers-by with Nazi propaganda lining the billboard backdrop, German soldiers searching for hidden Jews, a broken window of a Jewish pharmacist, arrests and executions; Resistance activities — forging papers, illegal radio transmissions and hiding Jews.

In a country that lost the highest percentage of Jews in Western Europe (80-90% of the 100,000 Jews had been killed in the war), the pictures are remarkably devoid of the grotesque violence and mutilation that typifies Holocaust pictures — most of which Jewish prisoners had taken under orders by the Nazis.

It is the very ordinariness of

most of these pictures, such as a group of people walking on a bright sunny day, or a girl waving up to her friend from a bustling courtyard between apartment buildings, that is unnerving — the people are Jews, unknowingly being rounded up. The girl was soon to die in Auschwitz.

Even the truly mundane — a man selling newspapers on a snowy day, a row of cars being transported to Germany — convey the message: There was a veneer of "life goes on," but these photographers found every action so reprehensible that it was worth capturing on film.

The only subject of which pictures move beyond this surrealism, and to the shocking, is of the "Hunger Winter."

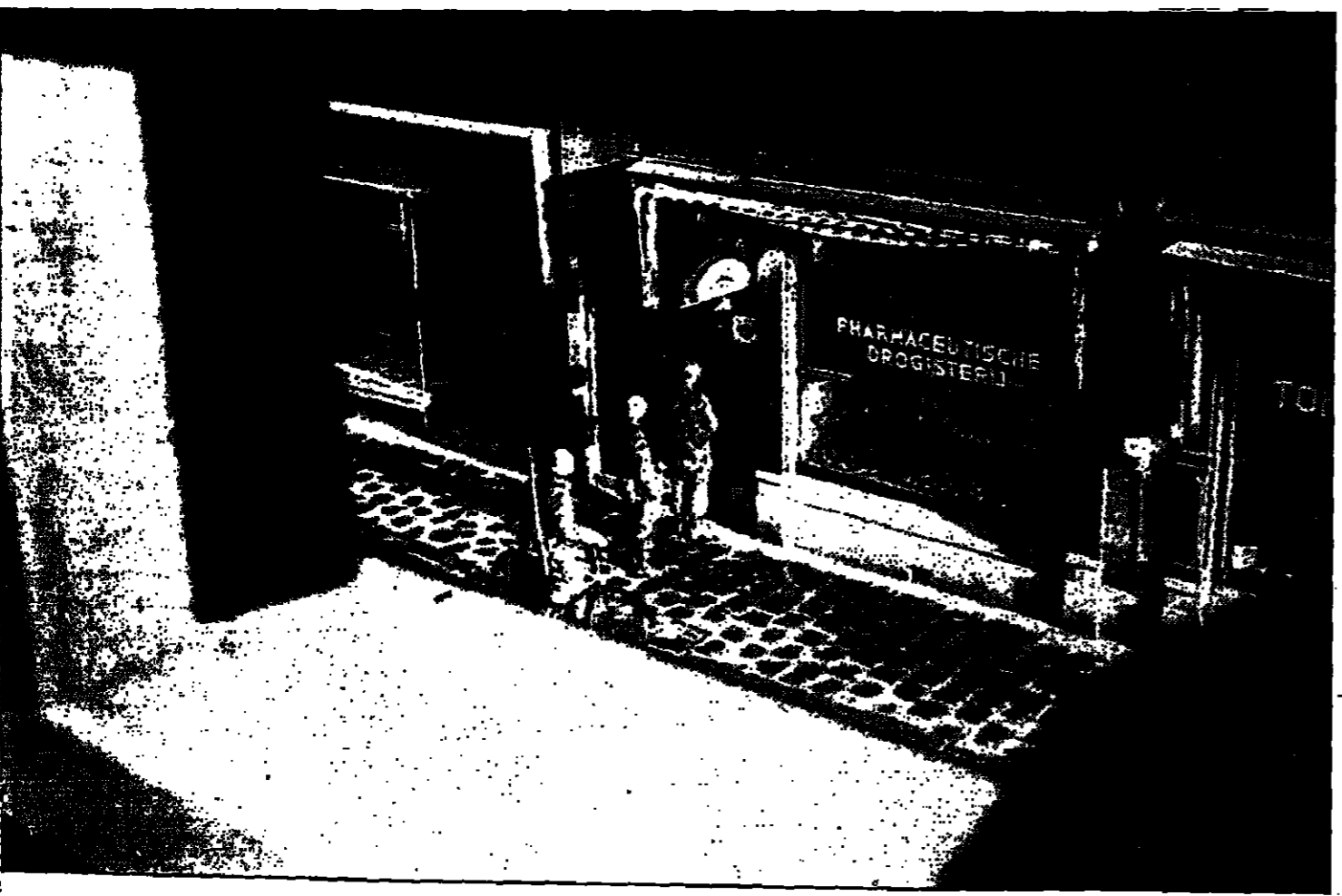
In the winter of 1945, the western part of Holland was completely cut off from the rest of the world, and it was estimated that 15,000 people died of starvation.

The pictures of this period show bony beggar children, bodies lining the streets, and Cas Oorthuis's now famous photo, "Starving Woman." It is rumored that these clandestine photographs, smuggled out to the Dutch government in exile, convinced the British government to airlift food.

All of the photographs — far-away shots, on rooftops, on windowsills, with half-fallen shadows, or into the sun — are still crisp, professional work taken in less than the best circumstances. They have the look and feel of being taken on the run, in hiding, quickly, and illegally.



From startling simplicity to shocking (clockwise from top left): Resistance members hide a cache of weapons beneath a toilet in 1945, by Cas Oorthuis; the same photographer's "Starving Woman," taken in the brutal winter of 1945; Fritz Kahlenberg's study of Adam van Rijsewijk, shown operating the radio from the secret attic at 36 Michelangelo Street in Amsterdam, which served as Resistance headquarters and was the birthplace of 'The Illegal Camera.' Van Rijsewijk was secretly dropped into the Netherlands to communicate with London via the radio; Charles Breijer's photo of a flower-seller and passing German officer; Ed Van Wijk's photo, taken secretly from behind a window, reveals Nazi soldiers searching for a hidden Jew. (Courtesy of the Jewish Museum in New York)



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'National Geographic' should stay out of politics

GUEST COLUMNIST
ANDREA LEVIN

If it had only happened once that *National Geographic* published a photo-laden article on the Middle East espousing anti-Israel themes, its 10 million subscribers could assume the piece was a regrettable aberration. But the venerable magazine has clearly fallen into a nasty pattern.

A 1992 article entitled "Who Are the Palestinians?" launched the trend with a revisionist history in which Palestinian Arabs were said to be the descendants of Canaanites, and Jews were erased from the region's ancient record. The Jews of modern Israel fared no better, being cast as interlopers and exploiters. Articles in 1993 and 1995 portrayed related themes, with Israel portrayed in one case as exploitative in its use of water resources and in another as unjust to the Arabs of Galilee.

This year has already brought a bumper crop of similar articles to the traditionally apolitical publication. April's "Three Faces of Jerusalem," July's "Syria Behind the Mask" and September's "Gaza, Where Peace Walks a Tightrope" all manage to project a message of Israeli wrongdoing, exploitation and intrusion.

Alan Mairson's Jerusalem article is a muddle of personal prejudices, errors and omissions. Most glaring is the author's exclusion of any reference to the unique and prominent ties of the Jewish people to the city. Instead he offers the themes of anti-Israel propagandists that the ancient connection of the Jews to the land of Israel ended thousands of years ago, to be resumed in modern times by dispossession of native Arabs.

Thus, readers meet an Israeli Jew who survived war-torn Europe and whose arrival in Israel, it is said, must inevitably have trampled Arab rights. The crude linkage seems fact and promotes the false allegation that Palestinian Arabs paid the price of the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews.

Unmentioned is the tenacious and nearly unbroken presence of a Jewish community in Jerusalem through millennia, a community that dwelled or flourished with the ebb and flow of foreign conquerors. Nor does Mairson tell readers that, other than a short-lived Crusader state, only the Jews have repeatedly established an independent nation there, with Jerusalem as the capital.

Nor does he inform readers that Jews have comprised a plurality or majority in the city since the first census were taken in the early part of the century.

Just as the past is misrepresented, there is no sense conveyed of the unique expressions of devotion by the Jews toward Jerusalem, whether in the thrice-daily prayers uttered through millennia by the religious or in the loving restoration of the city by municipal leaders, architects and citizens in the years since Israel was reborn as a modern state.

The beauty of Jerusalem is noted, but nowhere does Mairson point out that under centuries of Islamic dominion preceding the Jewish restoration, the city was a destitute and neglected backwater. The author leaves unidentified those responsible for the renaissance, with no mention of, for example, the planting of nearly 11 million trees around Jerusalem, the protection of religious sites or the refurbishment and preservation of antiquities.

Instead, as Mairson paints the picture, Jews are a largely malign and problematic presence, especially if they are religious. Orthodox Jews are presented as repellent disrupters of normal, secular life. In one passage a "young man with glasses eyes and a green knit skullcap" intrudes on a happy scene of picnicking Jerusalemites when he sets up a table with prayer implements. The offense? To encourage passersby to pray.

Mairson makes clear this sort of activity is only part of the menace posed by devout Jews, whom he describes ominously as "an increasingly powerful community" producing large families and making demands on the municipality. Particularly deceptive is the author's inflated emphasis on a tiny, fringe group, the Temple Mount Faithful whom he casts as a threat to Moslem holy sites on the Temple Mount.

The author, who identifies himself as Jewish, conveys in detail his discomfort with religious observance among the Jews, but is deferential to Christian and Moslem devotion. Wejch Nusseibeh, for example, is identified as the

descendant of a Moslem line going back to 715, "not long after the Prophet Muhammad is said to have received the wisdom of the Koran from Allah."

"Nusseibeh," Mairson adds respectfully, "lives his life by that wisdom." Moslem religious intolerance, singing Moslem population growth which surpasses the Jewish rate in the city, Arab pressures on the municipality, Arab abuses against non-Moslems that, before 1967, decimated the Christian population of eastern Jerusalem, are all erased in Mairson's skewed portrayal of the city.

LESS DRAMATICALLY distorted but insidious as well was the story on Syria by noted author Peter Theroux. While he offers glimpses of the hostile public attitudes among Syrians toward Israel, he completely obscures essential facts of history and geopolitics. No fewer than half a dozen pages contain references to the Golan Heights and Israeli possession of the land, but not once does Theroux indicate to readers that Syria lost that territory as a consequence of decades of unprovoked aggression launched from the Golan against Jewish communities.

Other violent policies of the regime are unmentioned as well. There is nothing about Syria's inclusion on the US State Department's list of nations sponsoring terrorism—more than half a dozen terrorist organizations find safe refuge there. Nor is there a single reference to Syrian occupation of Lebanon and its promotion of a drug trade there that spills into American cities. Syria is, in Theroux's rendering, a colorful, liberalizing nation, whose misfortune it is to have Israel on its southern border.

National Geographic's 25-page story on Gaza in September continues the theme of Israeli malfeasance and culpability, this time in cruder form by photographer/writer Alexandra Avakian. Once again, Israel is cast in the role of oppressor opposite the blameless Palestinian victim. Regrettably, readers are also referred to the magazine's new Internet website where further misinformation on the subject is appended and where lesson plans

are actually provided so that teachers can pass the magazine's nonsense about Gaza on to children.

Avakian ascribes all the miseries of life in Gaza to the 27 years of Israeli occupation, and to current Israeli policies, stressing the allegedly malign impact of the new government of Binjamin Netanyahu. Nothing is said of the much more horrendous conditions that prevailed in Gaza before 1967. Nor is the current reality honestly portrayed.

Yasser Arafat is described as struggling with every breath to make life better for his people. Avakian writes: "[Arafat] works incredibly long hours—often until three or four in the morning—tending to the details of government. His transition from guerrilla fighter to peacemaker has not been easy; recent events have made his position more difficult as he mediates between an increasingly desperate populace and Israel's new hard-line government."

Not a word here of what his native Palestinian subjects call the "Gazan Occupation," referring to Arafat's harsh and lawless reign over them. Nothing of the ruthless suppression of dissent, including the repeated detention and torture of Gazan psychiatrist and human rights activist, Iyad Sarraj, by the Palestinian Authority, or of the silencing of all journalistic criticism. Not a mention of Arafat's squandering of aid money on networks of oppressive militias and a sprawling bureaucracy, funds that might have been turned to job development.

Israel is held culpable for the general suffering, including for the degraded water conditions, the crowding, the psychological pain of children—and on and on.

The proliferation of biased, anti-Israel articles in a supposedly non-political publication such as the *National Geographic* may be a symptom of the specific views of current editors at the publication or it may be an indication of the degree to which anti-Israel attitudes have become established throughout diverse parts of the media.

Whatever the explanation, perhaps a revolt by concerned subscribers would send a salutary message—that *National Geographic* should stick to what it knows and avoid partisan Middle East politics.

Dry Bones



Esau: A nice name for a Jewish boy?

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"And Esau ran to meet him [Jacob], and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him, and they wept." (Gen. 33:4)

ESAU has become synonymous with evil. But does he really deserve his notoriety?

Back in college, a classmate who is today a well-known biblical scholar announced that he planned to name his first son after the most malign figure in the entire Bible—Esau. When one reads the Bible in terms of the literal text, without the midrash of our Sages, a case can certainly be made to defend Esau. And we're not doing Jacob any favors by ignoring the seeming good in Esau's behavior. In fact, only by presenting the best possible portrait of Esau can we achieve an authentic portrait of Jacob.

We read how one fateful day, Esau comes home ravenous and finds Jacob cooking lentil soup. The hungry hunter asks for some, but Jacob will only agree if he receives the birthright in return. Who is taking advantage of whom?

And then there's the question of the stolen blessing. Even without going into detail, Esau emerges as an honest figure deserving of our sympathy. He is known for honoring his father, probably because the Bible introduces him as being the patriarch's favorite since "his hunt was in his [Esau's] mouth."

Esau would frequently bring savory venison to Isaac. And it was Esau's exact fulfillment of his father's will—he makes all the preparation himself—which gave his younger brother time to reach Isaac's tent first. Moreover, the double-entendre inherent in the words "his hunt is in his [Esau's] mouth" suggests a smooth and effective salesman.

Additionally, Esau possesses qualities that many people admire, particularly where the spirit of the Wild West is still alive. Esau is not afraid of the unknown. He is a frontiersman, he reads tracks, smells the wind. In 19th-century

England, he would have explored Africa. Had he lived in Spain, he would have been at the right side of Columbus. Esau may not be a scholar, but he is larger than life, a self-made man whose exploits are legendary.

Even his having lost the blessing to Jacob doesn't stunt Esau's growth. He gets back on his feet and eventually becomes the leader of a powerful nation, Edom, which is identified as the progenitor of Rome. The final 43 verses of this week's portion *Wayishlah* are devoted to the world created by Esau: wives, children, grandchildren, chiefs, generals.

Furthermore, Esau touches our hearts when he is given to speak one of the most poignant verses in the Torah. After he realizes that Jacob has received the blessing which had been meant for him, the Bible reports: "And Esau said unto his father, 'Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.' And Esau lifted up his voice and wept." (Gen. 27: 28)

Does this sound like someone whose name should be shunned forever? We all know the pain of arriving somewhere a moment too late. We walk away, heartbroken. The situation is especially poignant since the preemptor was a deceiving interloper, certainly in Esau's eyes not at all worthy of the prize he captured. Hence, in Esau's plea for a blessing we feel his immense pain, and hear our own.

And when Jacob finally returns to his ancestral home after 20 years, Esau is overjoyed to see him. The past is past.

He embraces him with love, shedding tears. Even if Esau is a villain, shouldn't this moment of reconciliation redeem him? And what a redemption, the two halves of Isaac coming together in an embrace of peace and love! Apparently Esau is governed by emotion rather than logic, and it is such a strong emotion that he

weeps at the sight of a brother, even a brother at whose hands he had been deceived. Jacob accepts the reconciliation, but is somehow constrained to travel a different path.

The defense rests. Thus, described, Esau hardly seems worthy of the censure of Jewish history. Is it any wonder that my friend wished to name his son after him?

So why are our Sages so critical of Esau?

According to Clive Lawton, a Jewish educator in England, most Diaspora Jews are exactly like Esau. They are aggressive, self-made people who are glib of tongue and daring of deed. They sweep when they meet a long-lost brother (Jews from Ethiopia, Jews from Russia). They have respect for their parents and grandparents, tending to their physical needs and even visiting—or hiring someone to recite—the traditional Kaddish for a full year after their demise. Their verbal commitment to, and financial support of, Jewry and Israel can be heard loud and strong. Yes, they have a well-developed sense of brotherhood with Israel, an Esau-like commitment to Abrahamic (Jewish) identity, just like Esau seemed to have. Jewish identity, but not necessarily Jewish continuity! When it comes to their commitment to Abrahamic continuity, their willingness to secure a Jewish future, they are found wanting—just like Esau. Undoubtedly, one of the most important factors in preventing total Jewish assimilation into "gentiledom" is our refusal to eat what gentiles eat, our unique laws of kashrut.

Even under the most abject conditions, Jews have guarded their birthright by insisting on their unique eating habits.

Esau is willing to give up his birthright for a bowl of soup. Hasn't the road to modern assimilation been paved by T-bone steaks and lobsters?

May one not argue that Diaspora Jews has sold its birthright for a cheeseburger?

Shabbat Shalom

The way we do it here

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

SO YOU thought a member of one's country's foreign service is supposed to represent and defend his country's policies? Not, it seems, in Israel!

Gideon Samet is our consul-general in Philadelphia. He is on leave from *Ha'aretz*, where he was deputy editor and political columnist, an ardent advocate of the left-wing Meretz line. He was appointed to his post by the Labor/Meretz government in its final days, having been recommended by former Meretz leader and arts, science and communications minister Shulamit Aloni.

After the May 29 elections, and David Levy's appointment as foreign minister, there were several reports that Levy was canceling Samet's appointment. However, he finally ratified it on the basis of a renewable one-year contract.

Last month, a reporter for the weekly *Philadelphia Jewish Exponent* asked Samet if he thought the Arabs were to blame for the bloody riots following the opening of the exit of the Hasmonaean Tunnel in Jerusalem's Old City in September. Samet replied: "I don't want to get into who started it. I will say this, though: The timing was especially unfortunate. The government had been reading itself for redeployment in Hebron, which would have been a positive step with regard to the peace process. The problem is that just when it was about to happen, this crisis erupted, which has made the redeployment much more complicated."

Why did the *Exponent* think it should ask the consul for his personal opinion?

And of course, if the consul were a responsible diplomat, he would have withheld his opinion and explained the government's position on the Oslo Accords and the redeployment. They were badly negotiated and poorly constructed, and while the Netanyahu-led government intends to honor its predecessor's undertaking to implement them, it is striving to minimize what it regards as their dangerous consequences.

Earlier last month, Samet addressed a meeting of some 30 Philadelphia-area Jewish leaders in the city's Jewish Federation building. He opened his speech by saying: "I am speaking as

a journalist and as an analyst, not as the consul-general." He went on to say: "There is something wrong in the decision-making process in the government. The opening of the tunnel shows that."

Morton Klein of Philadelphia, president of the Zionist Organization of America, staunch Likud supporter, and relentless warrior in the struggle for fair news-media coverage of Jewish issues and events in general, and in particular those involving Israel, last month sent a memorandum detailing Samet's non-diplomatic conduct to Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu, Levy, and Ambassador to the US Eitanu Ben-Efraim.

Klein writes that Samet's "comments on several occasions criticizing the policies of the Israel government undermine efforts to explain Israel's case in America."

He reports that late in August, shortly after Samet took up his post, he asked Samet whether he would feel "comfortable supporting and representing" the policies of the Netanyahu-led government. "Much to my surprise, he replied: 'What do you think I am? A fascist who accepts everything the government does? Do you accept everything the Israel government does?'"

Klein continues: "I told him he was an employee and a representative of the government and it was his responsibility to support the government's policies."

An official in the Prime Minister's Office told me that Samet has been notified that his contract will not be renewed when it expires in May.

I wonder how long he would have lasted if our foreign minister had more respect for his own office and mission.

(See the November issue of *The Jewish Voice and Opinion*, Englewood, New Jersey, published and edited by Susan L. Rosenbluth.)

IF FURTHER proof were needed regarding NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw's anti-Israel malice, he himself recently provided it. Linking the terror bombing in Saudi Arabia

last June—that killed 19 Americans and wounded scores—to the meeting between Netanyahu and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher that had taken place a short while earlier, Brokaw said there was "no proof" that the meeting had caused the bombing, but that there was "no ruling it out either."

Edward Alexander, English literature professor at the University of Washington in Seattle and a staunch defender of his people and of Israel against hostile fellow academics and communications media, wrote us about Brokaw's scurrility, wondering how long it would be before he says there is "no proof" that Jewish doctors spread the AIDS virus, "but there is no ruling it out either."

WIM KORTENOEVEN, head of the Israel Committee in the Netherlands/Netherlands-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, thinks it's high time CNN recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The network's November 9-10 Teletext page 104 story reported: "[A] European [Union] delegation has begun talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara on restarting peace talks with Israel. Negotiations between Damascus and Tel Aviv are deadlocked."

LOIS K. Levy of Philadelphia has sent us a copy of the letter she sent Jim Lehrer following his broadcast of October 3 about Netanyahu's return to Israel from the US.

She notes that Lehrer said "protesters lined the road" when Netanyahu returned to Jerusalem from Ben-Gurion Airport, whereas "even" Peter Jennings, also a veteran Israeli-basher, said "both protesters and supporters" had lined the road.

She also demands to know why Lehrer spoke of "Netanyahu and the President... Mr. Arafat" and didn't refer to "Mr." or "Prime Minister Netanyahu."

Levy has stopped contributing to the Public Broadcasting System and Philadelphia's WHY?, but she "resents" my tax dollars going to either entity because of their continued anti-Israel bigoted reporting."

Lighting up lives

FUNDS

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- NIS 200 Shulamith Ben-Dror, Kibbutz Sde Nehemia, in memory of my late husband—Rebecca Sussman, Tel Aviv.
- NIS 150 in memory of Savta & Giriz—Michael, R-G. In memory of Dinah and Isaac Sherman.
- NIS 108 in loving memory of our father, Tel Aviv, Amir and Juliana Racz, Tel Aviv. In memory of my husband, Kurt—Rosa Lowenberg, Tel Aviv. Lola Lehman, Haifa. In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Harry Manheim—Lucia, Max, Chaja and Family. In loving memory of Rachel Chaplin—the Naimeer.
- NIS 80 in honor of Riva and Cyril Morris on their Golden Wedding Anniversary—Maurice and Marcia, Ra'anana. In memory of our parents—Eimer and Marjorie Epstein, Haifa.
- NIS 75 With thanks from Carolyn and James Strang.
- NIS 34 Thrice Hai in memory of my beloved grandmother, Hedwig West of Cincinnati—Sandra Simenhoz, Haifa.
- NIS 50 Lili Kovacs, Ramat Gan. Lili and Marcus Edelstein, Tel Aviv. Gitty and Ezra Henkin, Hofit. Mariana Katsani, Haifa. Rosa Klausner, J'm. With grateful thanks to the Almighty for the recovery of my father after his two operations on the yahrzeit of a dear Saba, Julius Casner (27)—E. Nadiv, Ramat Gan.
- NIS 36 in honor of Aunt Mizdie's 94th birthday—Naomi Markovitz, J'm.
- NIS 20 Zvi and Michal Rozema, J'm. \$500 C. and L., J'm.
- \$180 In memory of my mother, Anina Coheca (27)—Lina Eiman Coheca, Milan.
- \$100 M. Schwartz, Bronx. In memory of my uncle, David Webel, and my friend, Nahum Zielinski, both of Murraco, Venezuela.
- \$50 In memory of Marcelle Rose Salvia—J. Sperrnan, Brooklyn. NY. Dr. and Mrs. Barry Rosenberg, Chevy Chase, MD. In memory of

beloved parents, Leo and Mali, Nesi and Helga Allweis, W. Hartford.
\$36 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Rosenberg, Lutz, FL.
\$25 Carol and Joseph Levin, Highland Park, NJ.
Helen and M. Leonard Friedman, Norristown, PA.
\$18 In memory of the yahrzeit of my father, Siegfried Stern—Ruth Kropfeld, Cincinnati. Mr. and Mrs. Katz, Bethany, CT.
\$14 Anon.
\$10 Sigmar and Roseeta Seif, Paterson, NJ.

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- NIS 2,000 Hilaria Olei Britannia, Hod Hasharon.
- NIS 1,000 Hyla and Joe Bushelitz, J'm. Sofia and Yakov Leon, J'm. Richard Cohen, London.
- NIS 500 Anon. Anon. J'm. In memory of my late husband, Max—Erika Greif, Bat Yam.
- Rivka and Moshe Herzlich, J'm.
- NIS 300 Anon., Haifa. Miriam Dubsky, Herzliya. Mr. and Mrs. J. and Helen Goldshteyn, Herzliya Pithak.
- NIS 288 Hai for 16 grandkids: Gili, Talya, Leora, Sarale, Nira, Elad, Shira, Tamar, Yanatan, Ariel, Meital, Beth, Rachel, Robbie, Rafie, and Rivi—Barbara and Sol Liebowitz.
- NIS 250 The Ratz, Herzliya Pithak. Rosemary and Henry Kingsley, J'm. In honor of Conrad and Ruth Morris's commencement of the writing of their Sefer Torah (and dedicated to) Hebron, at the time of their eldest grandson's Halaka—Nigel and Sylvia Wallis.
- NIS 200 Lili Caro, Bat Yam. Shulamith Ben-Dror, Kibbutz Sde Nehemia.
- NIS 150 In memory of Paula—Michael, R-G. Baruch and Louise Luzon, Beersheva. In everlasting memory of our beloved Zachi, tragically killed in a road accident many years ago—mother Michal, Lili and Baruch Schaefer, Eilat. Levia, J'm. In memory of Doron.
- NIS 120 To celebrate the Halaka (first hair cutting) of Yehuda, son of Shlomo and Sarah-Jo BeeZvi of Eilat, in Hebron—Nigel and Sylvia Wallis.
- NIS 108 Hai from each of my six great-grandchildren—Jeanne Turkel. In loving memory of our father.
- NIS 100 Anon., Tel Aviv. Anon., Netanya. N.N., M. Carmel, Lucille Samler, J'm. Carol Clapsaddle, J'm. Hannah Wiesdor, J'm. Henry Weisenbick, Tel Aviv. In honor of three birthdays: Danny, Rachel and Doris. In honor of the

(Continued on Page 14)

FRIENDS of our Funds come in all shapes and sizes. Some raise money for our good causes through bridge or Scrabble clubs, others collect at their synagogue classes, some young supporters give part of their bar/bat mitzva gifts, while others go door-to-door.

Last year, we were introduced to a new way of carrying out the mitzvot. Richard Shavei-Zion, the director of the Ramatayim Men's Choir, organized a Hanukka evening of Jewish music in aid of our Toy Fund. It was sold out.

This year, on Monday, December 9, at 8 p.m., at the Israel Museum, together with the Zmor Chorale and the Pirchei Eilat, there will be a second annual evening of Jewish music on the occasion of the lighting of the fifth candle.

Tickets can be purchased by phoning 02-623-3986 or 02-561-9229. All proceeds will be donated to our Toy Fund and will be used to bring smiles to the faces of many of our needy youngsters. I look forward to seeing you there,

when I will be only too pleased to accept donations from late givers.

All three funds are lagging behind last year's totals. We still have a few weeks to catch up to, and even surpass last year. Remember, there are lots of people counting on you for donations and for the funds to give a helping hand. Don't wait, send your checks today to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

FORSAKE ME NOT

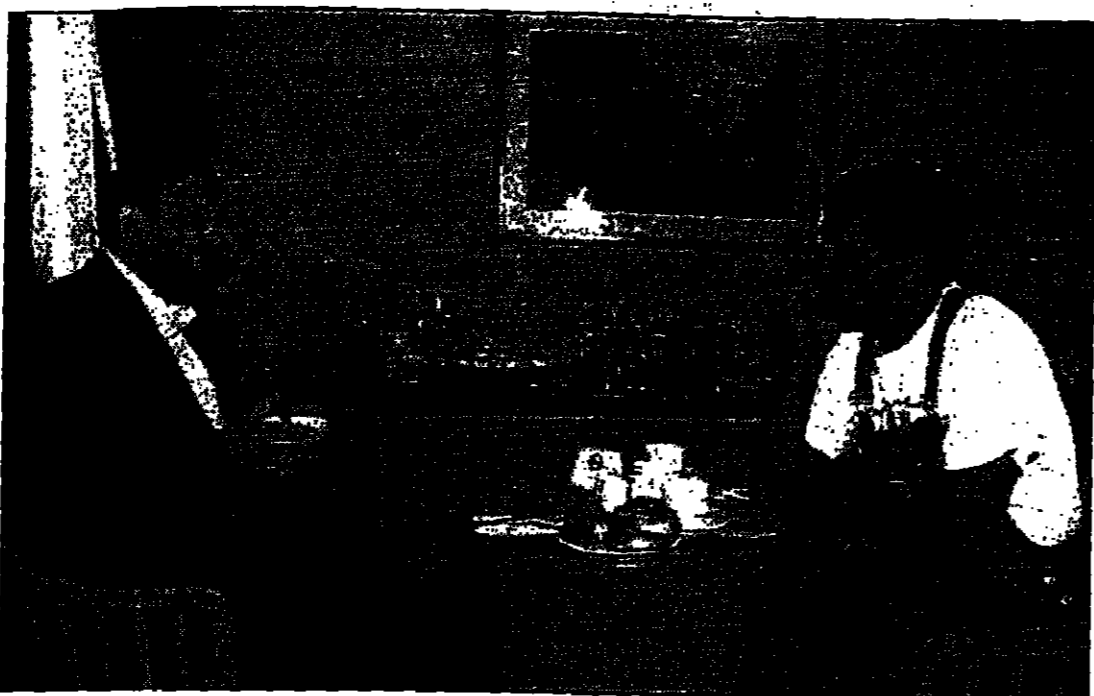
- NIS 1,000 Hyla and Joe Bushelitz, J'm.
- NIS 380 Yair de Vries, Amstelveen, Netherlands.
- NIS 300 Mr. and Mrs. J. and Helen Goldshteyn, Herzliya Pithak.
- NIS 250 Rosemary and Henry Kingsley, J'm. Then Radt, Herzliya Pithak.

Weighing the evidence after a fall

Revisionist philosophy returns to triumph in Likud

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

THERE COULD not have been a better example of weighing all the evidence before passing judgment. State Attorney Edna Arbel, addressing WIZO's symposium on Violence Against Women, told a surprised audience, that were it not for WIZO Israel chairman Telma Neri she might easily have acquired the reputation of being a battered wife. Suspicions arose when a distinctly bruised Arbel appeared in public after suffering a bad fall outside the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts. To those who sceptically raised an eyebrow, Arbel was able to offer a witness. The stranger who saw what happened to her and came to her assistance was none other than Neri.



Strange bedfellows and all that: Moledet MK Benny Elon gives Dudu Topaz a few political pointers over coffee.

VISITING ISRAEL as the guest of the Foreign Ministry, Gary Johnson, Governor of New Mexico, was taken to an army engineering base in the Golan Heights. A former contractor and building engineer, Johnson spontaneously climbed into the army bulldozer, pressed the right buttons and began constructing a blockade. The soldiers invited him to join the unit, but the governor reluctantly declined. He had a few more pressing duties at home.

INTRODUCING CELLCOM president and former General Security Services director Ya'acov Perry to the Foreign Press Corps Forum, Foreign Press Association chairman Nick Tatro remarked, "he's been listening to us for years and now we're getting a chance to listen to him."

THE BEAT of a different drum.

When he was a youngster, Saleh Heibi, talented exponent of the Arab drums, was discouraged by his father from becoming a musician. His father wanted him to go to university where he could study towards a more regular, office-bound profession. But when the younger Heibi persisted and achieved international fame with his Shifaram-based Eltaballin Percussion Quintet, his father had a change of heart and urged all his sons to become musicians.

MOTHERS AS well as fathers can be wrong. Case in point is Barbara Streisand's mom, who poured cold water on her daughter's desire to become an actress by telling her that she wasn't pretty enough — an

amazing statement by a Yiddish mama. A practical lady, she advised Barbara to file down her nails and go take a typing course, so she could be assured of an income. The oft-told tale resurfaced when Streisand made her new film *The Mirror* has two Faces.

A JORDANIAN pilot already well-known to former top brass in the Israel Air Force also visited Israel this week. Hassan H. Shurdon, former commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Air Force, met some of his Israeli counterparts and other senior IAF (Res.) officers at Superpham's annual international conference, which this year focused on air-force operations. Although the most famous of the

IAF commanders, Ezer Weizman, wasn't there, other frequent flyers present included Amos Lapidot, Moti Rod, Ya'acov Terner and Avihu Bin-Nun.

THEY'RE NOT on the same side of the political fence, but star entertainer Dudu Topaz was obviously fascinated by Moledet MK Benny Elon when the two met for coffee at the Holiday Inn, Jerusalem. Topaz announced earlier this year that he was thinking of throwing his cap into the political ring. Perhaps Elon was giving him some pointers.

VISITORS to Haifa cannot help but be impressed at the way in which the city has developed under

the administration of Amram Mitzna. The soldier-turned-mayor not only has wide-ranging vision, but has a talent for semantic innovation. While leading journalists on a tour of the city this week, Mitzna in references to the extensive promenades which have been built and those which are currently under construction, spoke of "pedestration." He may well have coined a new word. Even though it's not in the dictionary, it does succinctly express his meaning.

ALMOST EVERYONE complains about cellular phones, but pianist and classical singer Mosa Domitch, appearing at the 12th annual Chug Yavval Herzog Hospital luncheon at the elegant Jerusalem penthouse apartment of Lily and Nathan Silver suffered more than most. A telephone left in a handbag behind her seat rang for most of her performance. No one claimed the bag which was eventually removed to the kitchen. Only towards the end of her recital did the owner come looking for the bag. Amanda Weiss, who heads the public relations operations at the Bible Lands Museum, was momentarily disconcerted by her bag's disappearance, but was happy to discover that it hadn't gone too far.

FLEXING HIS political muscle, deputy minister for Religious Affairs Yigal Bibi last week insulted fellow MK Yael Dayan for her defense of Women at the Wall, and this week threatened to depose Education Minister Zevelun Hammer unless more funds are made available for religious education. Apparently Bibi is unaware that the pack tends to turn against the bully and overrun him.

MULTIPLE EMMY winner Billy Crystal has yet to win an Oscar. But the consolation prize for the engaging actor is that he's been selected for the fifth time to compete the Oscar awards ceremony. Movie buffs who want to be amongst the millions who catch the live coverage on TV, should mark March 23 in their diaries.

NOT TO be outdone by her ex-husband, newly married expectant father Michael Jackson, Lisa Marie Presley Jackson is creating a few headlines of her own in a bid to take after her daddy. Elvis Presley's daughter, who is launching a new career as a singer, hopes to prove that the apple has not fallen far from the tree. And press reports yesterday indicated that the new Mrs. Michael Jackson, Debbie Rowe, is considering filing for divorce only two weeks into their marriage.

WHAT makes progress, then makes more progress, then advances rapidly, but all the while stays in the same place? Gidi Gov wanted an answer to this riddle on his Channel 2 talk show on Tuesday night. It was, of course, the Netanyahu government's negotiations with the Palestinians. As if on cue, the next morning's headlines trumpeted "progress in the talks." But the "progress" once again turned out to be "fizzle."

Meanwhile, government spokesmen continued to blame the Palestinian side for holding up the talks. They then, somewhat illogically, admitted that progress had been made after the prime minister agreed the negotiating team could be more flexible and ease off on the "hot pursuit" issue.

Sorry, asked Labor MKs, but who did you say had been holding up the talks? So after a hundred indecisions, visions and revisions, we have returned to the good old Oslo agreement, the old, condemned by the new government as the hideous, "Peres-Arafat agreement." Yes, even down to the "hot pursuit," or lack of it.

IT EVEN transpired this week that one of the "lackeys" of the previous government was called to the Prime Minister's Office to bail the negotiations out of stalemate. This was none other than former Foreign Ministry legal advisor Joel Singer, one of the architects and writers of the Oslo agreement.

Senior officials in Netanyahu's government were also reportedly studying the Beilin-Abu Mazen plan for a Palestinian state. Now they really will have labor to blame if the whole thing backfires.

WHO'S THE BOSS? Is the National Religious Party coming out of the closet? "Take money from Habimah and give it to yeshivot, or we'll kick you out of the Education Ministry," Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi, of the NRP, told an astonished Education Minister Zevelun Hammer at the party's Knesset faction meeting this week, bearing the 'beeh' of some of the goings on in the party.

Bibi was demanding that funds be transferred from such cultural institutions as Habimah, the Inbal dance troupe and others to NRP institutions for "converting" secular people (*hazrim bit-shuva*). "You change the order of priorities in your ministry," Bibi shouted at a stunned Hammer. "Cancel Habimah, Inbal, and dance. Everything must go only to Torah institutions!"

In most other Western democracies, the state finances the mainstream education system and major religious groups like Jews, Catholics and Moslems provide additional finance for their own, usually excellent, private institutions. Here, the religious parties are stuck fast to the budget-nipple of a state some of them do not even recognize, drawing funds for their respective, and sometimes non-Zionist, yeshivot.

Bibi threatened Hammer that the NRP faction will force him to transfer the funds, if he doesn't do so of his own volition. To his eternal credit, Hammer responded with righteous shock and amazement. "How am I to do that?" he asked. "Is the money in my pocket? How can a political faction try to determine the min-

istry's budget? What? Is there no state? No criterion?"

He added: "If every time we're in government we rob the public coffers for four years, then the next time, we will be robbed. It is unthinkable that an elected minister should consider his ministry his private domain, or his party's property."

"Bravo! Hammer," was the resounding response from all logical sides of the political spectrum. Not so, said some dissenting MKs, the problem is Hammer prefers to transfer the funds to the religious institutions on the quiet, without openly appearing as an enemy of non-religious culture.

When former religious affairs minister Shimon Shetreet, of Labor, entered office during the previous government, he found that every religious or haredi party which had held the ministry in the past somehow managed to "mislay" the other religious party's applications for financial allocations. Hence, the party in power at the ministry could bolster its own education network at the expense of its rivals. Shetreet halted allocations to religious institutions which presented fictitious data as bait for large budgets, and he set out to establish fixed criteria for the allocations.

For his valiant attempt to clean out the malodorous ministry stables and uproot some of the injustices there, Shetreet was branded as Shas's public enemy number one. (Hardly necessary to explain that before Shetreet, Shas had held the ministry...)

One of Shetreet's achievements was managing to allocate cemetery plots for those whose relatives are decreed by the religious overlords to be not absolutely Jewish. Now it seems Bibi has taken up arms in defense of the old tricks. He canceled the Religious Affairs Ministry's plans for the secular cemetery plots, "no budget." A likely tale indeed.

This was not Bibi's first demonstration of the art of the ugly outburst. At a recent visit to the Western Wall to examine, objectively of course, the request by the Women of the Wall to pray at the site, Bibi burst out at Professor Frances Radai, one of the leaders of the women's group: "Who are you to soil this place? You're nothing but a small minority of weirdos." He seemed blissfully unaware that such boorish rudeness might sully the place more effectively than praying women.

Bibi has also accused Supreme Court President Aharon Barak of "destroying democracy" and "changing the court with making 'nonsensical rulings.'" He also told his supposed boss, Religious Affairs Minister Eliahu Suissa of Shas: "You may be registered as minister of religion, but let me tell you that I and [deputy minister] Aryeh Gamiel are the real ministers of religion here."

Minister Bibi, it has been noted by Knesset members, seems to suffer from a chronic case of the gripes. Could he be bitter at not being appointed transport minister, they wonder. After all, he had received Kabbalist Rabbi Kadour's blessing, and so was assured of landing the job.

The NRP's central committee had other ideas, however, and elected Yitzhak Levy to the post. Maybe he should have humbled himself and taken one of those election-winning Shas amulets as well.

BRULIK by DOSH

OUR DAD DOESN'T BEAT OUR MOTHER.
HE DOES HIS RESERVE DUTY.
HE'S A OBRIGOUS DRUNK.

BUT HE HAS A CELLPHONE!

GOOD! WE CAN STILL BE CONSIDERED REAL ISRAELIS!

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Hurried around with a lubricant, but it didn't improve things! (7)
- This issue is one of three to be considered (7)
- Resigns, surprisingly, on the way in (7)
- Put head of department in clue (7)
- Bent on bet after a bright idea (9)
- Perimeter in inches (5)
- Takes cuts (5)
- Takes great care of the prizes (9)
- Makes cross after goal causes risk (9)
- Letter from Greece was dealt with somehow (5)
- Cult took early lead in the wearing of armour (5)
- Can a beginner make an entrance with this? (3,6)
- Piece of wood and a line catches the bird (7)
- Believe I'm in time (7)
- Give up hope of bumpy ride around the resort (7)
- Go back into Linden's city (7)

DOWN

- 15th inst. saint inside! (7)
- Chewed on cigar that's green! (7)
- Surgeon general receives an honour (5)
- Divide up lady's cost (9)
- Consider how to spare the king (5)
- At the wicket for 500—and got even more! (9)
- Is the sitting room the place for this seat? (7)
- No point makes an impression on locks (7)
- When Ian's sorta ruptured he went into one of these (9)
- It's imperative that directions are submitted to one and almost all (9)
- Object to the inclusion of a suit inside the cover (7)
- Loot for lost, leaderless Lollards (7)
- Consume gin in a breather from hitting out (7)
- Serials can be stuffy (7)
- Write letters about the tug (5)
- Something sung by a girl during the afternoon (5)

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Pack of cards (4)
- Speeches (8)
- Concur (5)
- Extensive (7)
- Consume (3)
- Version (9)
- Deprive of food (6)
- Brings together (6)
- Midland city (9)
- Pillage (3)
- Observing (7)
- Original (7)
- Be immersed in water (5)
- Desert (8)
- Bench (4)

DOWN

- Festoon (5)
- Motor vehicle (3)
- Give ground (6)
- Stress (7)
- Supplier of clothes (9)
- Proverbs (7)
- Carry (4)
- Ritual or habit (9)
- More stupid (7)
- Observing (7)
- Not excitable (6)
- Gown (4)
- Fresh water fish (5)
- Pair (3)

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ETIM

FUNDS

(Continued from Page 13)

bar mitzva of Daniel Cohen — Great-grand-uncle Trudi and Cousins Julie, Jansac, Yael and Michael Bevin, Amanda and Juliana Racz, Tel Aviv. In honor of all our grandchildren — Eshner and Marjorie Eppstein, Haifa. In loving memory of Yarden — Eyal, Avishai and Billi. In loving memory of Greta Schindler-Schwartz — the Netanya.

NIS 72 Four times Hai for the Wylers in Beijing and Geneva!

NIS 54 Renee Taft, Tel Aviv.

NIS 50 Rosa Klausner, J'im. Mariana Kanassy, Haifa. Giny and Ezra Henkin, Hoft. Irit and Marcus Edelstein, Tel Aviv.

NIS 36 Naomi Markovitz, J'im.

NIS 20 Zvi and Michal Rozem, J'im. \$200 in honor of our grandchildren, Yoni, Domy, Dina and Aryeh Zahler, Jansy, Sarah and Rebecca Kraut — Sy and Rochelle Kraut, Newton, MA.

\$180 On the first yartzzeit of my mother, Amina Cohen — Lina Eshar Cohen, Milan.

72 x 4 Hai for the Hartsteins from Nana and Grampa.

\$60 Virginia Horstman, Phoenix.

\$56 M. Schwartz, Bronx.

\$34 x 4 Hai for the Albins from Nana and Grampa.

\$50 Dr. and Mrs. Barry Rosenberg, Chevy Chase, MD. Leah and Abe Moskowitz, Teneck, NJ. In memory of beloved brother, Al — Netti and Helga Allweis, W. Hartford.

\$25 M. Leonard and Helen Friedman, Norristown, PA. Hanna and Leopold Weisner, Netanya.

\$18 In memory of the yartzzeit of my father, Siegfried Stern — Ruth Kropfeld, Cincinnati. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Rosenberger, Luzon, FL. The Humd. Children: Chery Chase, MD. Ahava Aaron, NYC. Iam and Julie Katz, Johnstown, PA. In memory of Dona Kaplan — her grandchildren, Andrew, Jennifer and Joshua Freeman, C350 in honor of our grandchildren — Simna and Harvey Shaul, Toronto, Canada.

\$180 Heartiest Mazal Tov and best wishes to our parents on their 54th wedding anniversary. May they be blessed with many more years of health and happiness — love, Harry, Ricki, Fred, Michael, Daniel, Eli-Sheba and Naomi Maltzer, Sydney and Melbourne. DFL25 J. van Sasne, Netherlands.

New Donations: NIS 12,750
Progress Totals: NIS 146,734
\$930 \$34,860

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NIS 1,000 Hyla and Joe Busheikin, J'im.

NIS 300 Mr. and Mrs. J. and Helen Goldsztejn, Herzliya Pithah.

NIS 250 Rosemary and Henry Kingsley, J'im.

NIS 200 Shulamith Ben-Dror, Kibbutz Sde Nebesim.

NIS 108 In loving memory of our father, NIS 100 Anon, Tel Aviv, Amira and Juliana Racz, Tel Aviv. In loving memory of Lissie Rosen — the Naimers.

NIS 50 Rosa Klausner, J'im. Giny and Ezra Henkin, Hoft.

NIS 20 Zvi and Michal Rozem, J'im.

\$50 Dr. and Mrs. Barry Rosenberg, Chevy Chase, MD.

\$25 M. and Mrs. Leonard Friedman, Norristown, PA.

New Donations: NIS 2,228
Progress Totals: NIS 45,118
\$75 \$17,150

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, November 29, 1996

Mizrahi swings back to black; Leumi, Hapoalim earnings up

UNITED Mizrahi Bank (UMB) shifted from loss to profit in the third quarter of the year, with a net income of NIS 51m. compared to a net loss of NIS 8.2m. in the same period last year.

Net profits in the first nine months of the year grew 88.5% to NIS 118.4m. compared with NIS 62.8m. Net return-on-equity on an annual basis rose to 9.7% from 5.4% in the corresponding period last year.

In 1995 Mizrahi was forced to set aside high provisions for irregular activities in its London branch. Excluding these provisions, Mizrahi completed the first nine months of 1996 with a net profit of NIS 136.2m. compared to NIS 102.8m. last year.

Profit from financing activity before provision for doubtful debts increased 8.8% in the nine month period, to NIS 709.2m. Provisions for doubtful debts more than halved to NIS 75.5m. compared with NIS 158.4m. In the reported period the bank set aside provisions of NIS 9m., mainly as a result of unauthorized bank credit granted to the building sector.

Bank Hapoalim, Israel's

Turbowicz: Supervise public utilities with single agency

DAVID HARRIS

CURRENT supervision of infrastructure monopolies is inefficient and needs to be replaced, according to Antitrust Authority director-general Yoram Turbowicz.

Speaking in Jerusalem this week, Turbowicz, who is the industry and Trade Ministry official responsible for overseeing monopolies and cartels, called for the creation of a new authority that would be responsible for regulating organizations such as Israel Electric Corporation and Channel 2.

The authority would consist of several commissioners, each responsible for a different utility.

"It would be similar to the US Public Utilities Commission," said Hebrew University public finance professor Eytan Sheshinski. "It is true to say there are many similar problems facing the large-sized utilities." A unified body would be able to share experience, while retaining specialist knowledge on each utility.

It could be argued such a body

largest bank announced a 38.9% growth in net profits for the third quarter of 1996, mainly as a result of higher earnings of subsidiary and affiliated companies, and from the sale of the bank's excess holdings in non-financial companies.

Net profits in the quarter increased to NIS 262.7m. compared with NIS 189.2m. in the same period last year. In the first nine months of the year, net profits rose to NIS 674.9m. compared with NIS 623.9m. in the same period last year, up 8.2%.

Net return-on-equity rose to 12.7% in the nine-month period compared to 12.6% for the first nine months of last year.

Profit from financing activity before provision for doubtful debts rose to NIS 929.6m. in the third quarter from NIS 811.2m. Profit from financing activity in the first nine months was up 2.6% to NIS 2.56 billion.

Management attributed the improvement to a rise in prices in the bond market, which led to the cancellation of the provision for the write-down in the value of the bank's portfolio of marketable

COMPANY RESULTS

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

bonds. Provisions for doubtful debt rose to NIS 267m. in the quarter compared with NIS 193.6m. The provision for the first nine months increased 8.6% to NIS 694.5m. The bank blamed the rise on new directives issued by the Supervisor of Banks in respect of unidentified risks inherent in the bank's customer debt portfolio, especially in the third quarter.

Operating and other income in the nine-month period fell 1.5% to NIS 1.53b. The decrease was mainly due to a fall in income from capital-market activity. This was partially offset by a 5.2% increase in income from computerized services, foreign trade activity and special foreign currency services.

Operating and other expenses rose 3.2% in the first nine months, to NIS 2.47b.

The bank's share in the profit of unconsolidated subsidiaries and affiliated companies rose 36.1% in the first nine months, to NIS 194m. Net profit from extraordinary transactions after taxes for the first nine months reached NIS 128.4m. The earnings resulted from the sale of the bank's excess holdings in Ampal and Clal.

Total assets stood at NIS 150.3b. Credit granted to the general public amounted to NIS 89.9b. while deposits from the public reached NIS 100.4b.

Hapoalim's board of directors yesterday approved the appointment of Avi Harel to the board in charge of the bank's management-information network. Harel currently

is NIS 126.2m. up 3.5% since the start of the year. Deposits from the public increased 5.8% to NIS 101b. Loans to the public increased 7% to NIS 71.7b.

Bank Leumi completed the third quarter of 1996 with a 113.4% growth in net profits

to NIS 171.3m. compared with NIS 80.3m. in the same period last year.

The bank's net profit for the first nine months increased 10% to NIS 390.7m. Net return-on-equity on an annual basis reached 7.7% compared with 7.4% in the corresponding period last year.

The improvement was achieved despite a one-time provision of NIS 190.3m. to cover expenses for the voluntary retirement scheme. Under the scheme, 312 employees retired, of whom 45% were at management level.

"Improved profits derived mainly from an expansion of the group's business operations, the increase in the profits of subsidiaries in Israel and abroad, and the reduction in the provisions for doubtful debts," said management.

The results do not include earnings from Bank Leumi's sale of Leumi Insurance Holdings to the Italian Generali firm and sale of 47.2% of Africa Israel to businessman Lev Leviev. The NIS 400m. profit from these transactions will be recorded in the fourth quarter of 1996.

Provisions for doubtful debts fell 28.1% in the first nine months to NIS 414.1m. Operating and other income decreased 1.6% to NIS 1.53b. while operating and other expenses, exclusive of the cost of the voluntary retirement scheme, fell 0.5% to NIS 2.67b.

Profits from extraordinary operations increased NIS 49.4m. compared to NIS 12.6m. in the same period last year. Most of these profits derived from the sale of Leumi's New York branches.

The bank's total assets at the end of September, amounted to NIS 126.2m. up 3.5% since the start of the year. Deposits from the public increased 5.8% to NIS 101b. Loans to the public increased 7% to NIS 71.7b.

IDB moves into red; Osem net up 16%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE IDB Holding Corporation moved into the red during the third quarter with a net loss of NIS 5m. compared with NIS 40m. in profits over the same period last year.

Net profits in the first nine months of the year fell to NIS 72m. compared with NIS 90m. in the corresponding period last year.

IDB Development, a subsidiary of IDB Holding, reported a third quarter net loss of NIS 4m. compared with a net profit of NIS 59m. last year. In the first nine months of the year, net earnings fell to NIS 113m. compared with NIS 123m. last year.

Osem Investment, Israel's third largest food producer, completed the third quarter with a net profit of NIS 20.66 million compared with a net profit of NIS 17.78m. in the corresponding period last year.

The improved earnings were mainly due to a rise in gross profits, a drop in management expenses and an increase in financing income. The rise was partly offset by higher marketing and sale expenses, primarily because of the entrance of Nestle products into the local market, said management.

Net profit in the first nine months of the year increased 2.6% to NIS 53.1m. compared with NIS 51.76m.

Sales turnover grew 5.5% in the first nine months, to NIS 923.76m. The increase was mainly due to a growth in the company's basket of products and entrance into new markets. Local market sales rose 5.4% to NIS 841.24m. while overseas market sales increased 6.2% to NIS 82.44m.

BITS & BYTES

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Computervision and Tecnomatix sign memorandum of understanding: Computervision Corporation (NYSE: CVN) and Tecnomatix Technologies Ltd. (Nasdaq: TNQF) announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding to embed the two of Tecnomatix's products into Computervision's products, which are designed to help software manufacturers improve product quality. Based in Herzliya, Tecnomatix develops products that allow production engineers to create virtual machines and production equipment models.

ELOP announces new microscope that checks brain and blood cells: ELOP Electro-optics Industries has announced the release of its CMS-1 microscope designed to check brain and blood cells, the company said. ELOP, a privately held maker of optical equipment used for both civilian and military purposes, developed the microscope along with AMS, a start-up that supplies development services to various types of companies.

GEO Interactive signs software publishing agreement: The GEO Interactive Media Group (GIM) of Givatayim has announced the signing of an exclusive software-publishing agreement with Symantec (Nasdaq: SYMC) that allows the company to manufacture, market, package and distribute GEO's Internet Emblaze Creator. The technology allows real-time delivery of multimedia content over the Internet. Symantec of Cupertino, California is a leading developer of software products.

Intel to spend \$20m. to expand Haifa R&D center: Intel (Nasdaq: INTC) said that it will be investing \$20m. to expand its development center in Haifa by 12,000 sq.m. Intel, the California-based manufacturer of microprocessors, personal computers, memory chips and network and communication hardware and software began operating here in 1974.

M-Systems announces new flash disk solutions: M-Systems (Nasdaq: FLSHF) of Tel Aviv announced the 2000 series of flash-disk solutions. The new series incorporates a new flash component technology known as NAND. Flash memory is a non-volatile data storage semiconductor technology that allows silicon memory chips to store data for long periods of time.

Point of Sale completes \$8m. deal with UK's Tesco: Point of Sale, the Herzliya-based maker of retailing software, completed an \$8m. deal with the UK's Tesco retailer. Tesco has 500 outlets throughout the UK, including supermarkets, cafeterias and self-service gas stations. Based on Windows 95, Point of Sale's technology has been employed by retailers around the world.

QXI translates websites into Japanese: QX Israel of Jerusalem provides 24-hour translation of websites into Japanese. The service is designed for companies wishing to reach the Japanese market.

RAD Data Communications wins Argentinian tender: Rad Data Communications, through its Argentinian distributor Mercaderes Comunicaciones SA, was selected by Telcel Argentina to supply the Argentinian carrier with 1,400 of its HTU-E1 extended range modems. The HTU-E1 extends the range of E1 transmission to 4.5 kilometers over four-wire copper cable, using high bit-rate digital subscriber line technology. RAD Data Communications manufactures a range of product solutions for local area and wide-area network applications. RAD is a member of the \$200m. RAD Group of Companies.

Teledata receives \$6m. order from European company: Teledata Communications (Nasdaq: TLDCF) of Herzliya recently announced the receipt of an order totaling about \$6m. for its TIMUX product from a European telephone operating company. TIMUX is a line multiplexer that enables telephone operators to increase the capacity of existing networks. Teledata manufactures products for telecommunications access networks.

Teuza sells 50% of its holdings in A.B. Seeds: Teuza, a Fairchild Technology Venture, recently sold half its stake, which represented 15.25% of the company's holdings, in A.B. Seeds to an undisclosed company for \$1.4m. Through a genetic-engineering technique developed at Hebrew University, A.B. Seeds produces hybrid tomato seeds that produce virus-resistant tomatoes that are almost immune to the yellow leaf curl virus.

VocalTec announced latest software: VocalTec Ltd. (Nasdaq: VOCLF) recently announced shipment of its telephony gateway server software eight-line system, which can provide both intranet and traditional calling for corporations and Internet service providers. The system integrates VocalTec's Internet phone technology with Dialogic Corp.'s voice-processing board, which enables the interconnection of phone lines, using the Internet as the connection link.

Womex announces agreement with Hong Kong companies: The World Merchandise Exchange (WOMEX) announced its service and marketing agreement with CargoNet Community Networks, a consortium of Hong Kong companies that run an electronic data interchange system. WOMEX, a US-based company, has developed a service called WOMEX Online that allows retailers around the world to source general merchandise products and communicate electronically with suppliers. Womex can be reached at webmaster@womex.com.

Giscard proposal to devalue franc gains momentum

PARIS (Reuters) - Some 20 members of France's ruling Gaullist party called yesterday for a "serious debate" on former president Valery Giscard d'Estaing's call for a sharp

devaluation of the franc to boost a sluggish economy.

"It does not mean renouncing Europe, nor a single currency. It just means analyzing, calmly and clearly, how our country

can move toward European integration," they said in a statement.

"It is not a single currency which is at issue, it is the terms of its realization," they said.

The Gaullist RPR members issuing the statement are allies of National Assembly speaker Philippe Seguin, who spearheaded the campaign against the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

Seguin has described Giscard d'Estaing's views as "impeccable." But official spokesmen for both the RPR and its junior partner in the center-right coalition, the UDF, have roundly condemned Giscard d'Estaing's appeal for a weaker currency. President Jacques Chirac's RPR and the UDF hold a total of 480 of the 577 national assembly seats.

Giscard d'Estaing revived a debate about the merits of monetary union when he urged last week that France should announce plans to fix the franc against the new European currency, the euro, at a much lower level than it is now, opening the way to a depreciation. This, he said, would revive flagging growth and help reduce French unemployment, which is at a record 12.6 percent.

Although the ex-president yields little political clout, he was one of the first high-ranking politicians in recent years to break publicly a taboo on questioning France's decade-old strong franc policy.

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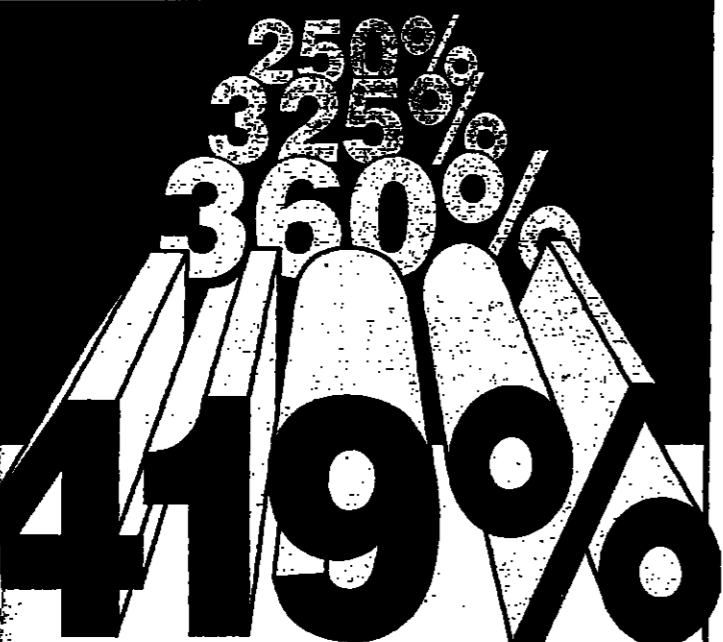
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This announcement is neither an offer to purchase nor a solicitation of an offer to sell Shares. The Offer is made solely by the Offer to Purchase dated November 26, 1996 and the related Letter of Transmittal and is being made to all holders of Shares. The Offer is not being made to (nor will tenders be accepted from or on behalf of) holders of Shares in any jurisdiction in which the making of the Offer or the acceptance thereof would not be in compliance with the laws of such jurisdiction. In any jurisdiction where the securities, blue sky or other laws require the Offer to be made by a licensed broker or dealer, the Offer shall be deemed to be made on behalf of the Purchaser by Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated or one or more registered brokers or dealers licensed under the laws of such jurisdiction.

**Notice of Offer to Purchase for Cash
All Outstanding Shares of Common Stock**

of
Opal, Inc.
at
\$18.50 Net Per Share
by
Orion Corp. I
a wholly owned subsidiary of
Applied Materials, Inc.

Orion Corp. I, a Delaware corporation (the "Purchaser") and a wholly owned subsidiary of Applied Materials, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Parent"), is offering to purchase all outstanding shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share (the "Shares"), of Opal, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), at a price of \$18.50 per Share, net to the seller in cash, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Offer to Purchase, dated November 26, 1996 (the "Offer to Purchase"), and in the related Letter of Transmittal (which, as amended or supplemented from time to time, together constitute the "Offer"). Following the Offer, the Purchaser intends to effect the Merger described below.

THE OFFER AND WITHDRAWAL RIGHTS WILL EXPIRE AT 12:00 MIDNIGHT, NEW YORK CITY TIME, ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1996, UNLESS THE OFFER IS EXTENDED.

The Offer is conditioned upon, among other things, there being validly tendered and not withdrawn prior to the expiration of the Offer a number of Shares which constitutes at least a majority of the Shares outstanding on a fully diluted basis. The Offer is also subject to other terms and conditions.

The Offer is being made pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 24, 1996 (the "Merger Agreement"), by and among Parent, the Purchaser and the Company. The Merger Agreement provides that, among other things, as soon as practicable after the purchase of Shares pursuant to the Offer and the satisfaction of the other conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware ("DGCL"), the Purchaser will be merged with and into the Company (the "Merger"). Following consummation of the Merger, the Company will continue as the surviving corporation and will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Parent. At the effective time of the Merger (the "Effective Time"), each Share issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time (other than Shares held in the treasury of the Company or owned by the Purchaser, Parent or any other wholly owned subsidiary of Parent, and any Shares held by stockholders exercising appraisal rights pursuant to Section 262 of the DGCL) will be cancelled and converted into the right to receive \$18.50 in cash, without interest.

In connection with the Merger Agreement, Parent and the Purchaser have entered into Stockholder Agreements dated as of November 24, 1996 with certain stockholders of the Company who beneficially own an aggregate of 4,288,634 Shares pursuant to which, among other things, such stockholders have agreed to tender their Shares in the Offer, and have granted Parent an option to acquire their Shares at \$18.50 per Share, upon the terms and subject to the conditions there-of in the event of certain terminations of the Offer or the Merger Agreement.

The Board of Directors of the Company has determined that the terms of the Offer and the Merger are fair to and in the best interests of the stockholders of the Company and recommends that stockholders accept the Offer and tender their Shares pursuant to the Offer.

For purposes of the Offer, the Purchaser will be deemed to have accepted for payment (and thereby purchased) Shares validly tendered and not properly withdrawn as, if and when the Purchaser gives oral or written notice to Harris Trust Company of New York (the "Depository") of the Purchaser's acceptance for payment of such Shares pursuant to the Offer. Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Offer, payment for Shares accepted for payment pursuant to the Offer will be made by deposit of the purchase price, therefor with the Depository, which will act as agent for tendering stockholders for the purpose of receiving payments from the Purchaser and transmitting such payments to tendering stockholders whose Shares have been accepted for payment. Under no circumstances will interest on the purchase price for Shares be paid, regardless of any delay in making such payment. In all cases, payment for Shares tendered and accepted for payment pursuant to the Offer will be made only after timely receipt by the Depository of (i) the certificates evidencing such Shares or timely confirmation of a book-entry transfer of such Shares into the Depository's account at one of the Book-Entry Transfer Facilities (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 3 of the Offer to Purchase, (ii) the Letter of Transmittal (or a facsimile thereof), properly completed and duly executed, with any required signature guarantees, or an Agent's Message (as defined in the Offer to Purchase) in connection with a book-entry transfer, and (iii) any other documents required under the Letter of Transmittal.

The Purchaser expressly reserves the right, in its sole discretion (but subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement), at any time and from time to time, to extend for any reason the period of time during which the Offer is open, including the occurrence of any of the conditions specified in Section 14 of the Offer to Purchase, by giving oral or written notice of such extension to the Depository. Any such extension will be followed as promptly as practicable by public announcement thereof, such announcement to be made no later than 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the previously scheduled expiration date of the Offer. During any such extension, all Shares previously tendered and not withdrawn will remain subject to the Offer, subject to the rights of a tendering stockholder to withdraw such stockholder's Shares.

Tenders of Shares made pursuant to the Offer are irrevocable except that such Shares may be withdrawn at any time prior to 12:00 Midnight, New York City time, on Tuesday, December 24, 1996 (or the latest time and date at which the Offer, if extended by the Purchaser, shall expire) and, unless theretofore accepted for payment by the Purchaser pursuant to the Offer, may also be withdrawn at any time after January 24, 1997. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written, telegraphic or facsimile transmission notice of withdrawal must be timely received by the Depository at one of its addresses set forth on the back cover page of the Offer to Purchase. Any such notice of withdrawal must specify the name of the person who tendered the Shares to be withdrawn, the number of Shares to be withdrawn and the name of the registered holder of such Shares, if different from that of the person who tendered such Shares. If share certificates evidencing Shares to be withdrawn have been delivered or otherwise identified to the Depository, then, prior to the physical release of such Share certificates, the serial numbers shown on such Share certificates must be submitted to the Depository and the signature(s) on the notice of withdrawal must be guaranteed by an Eligible Institution (as defined in the Offer to Purchase), unless such Shares have been tendered for the account of an Eligible Institution. If Shares have been tendered pursuant to the procedure for book-entry transfer as set forth in Section 3 of the Offer to Purchase, any notice of withdrawal must specify the name and number of the account at the Book-Entry Transfer Facility to be credited with the withdrawn Shares. All questions as to the form and validity (including the time of receipt) of any notice of withdrawal will be determined by the Purchaser, in its sole discretion, whose determination will be final and binding.

The information required to be disclosed by Rule 14d-6(e)(1)(vii) of the General Rules and Regulations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is contained in the Offer to Purchase and is incorporated herein by reference.

The Company has provided the Purchaser with the Company's stockholder list and security position listings for the purpose of disseminating the Offer to holders of Shares. The Offer to Purchase and the related Letter of Transmittal will be mailed to record holders of Shares whose names appear on the Company's stockholder list and will be furnished to brokers, dealers, commercial banks, trust companies and similar persons whose names, or the names of whose nominees, appear on the stockholder list or, if applicable, who are listed as participants in a clearing agency's security position listing for subsequent transmittal to beneficial owners of Shares.

The Offer to Purchase and the related Letter of Transmittal contain important information which should be read before any decision is made with respect to the Offer.

Questions and requests for assistance may be directed to the Information Agent or the Dealer Manager at their respective addresses and telephone numbers as set forth below. Additional copies of the Offer to Purchase and the related Letter of Transmittal and other tender offer materials may be obtained from the Information Agent as set forth below. Such copies will be furnished promptly at the Purchaser's expense. No fees or commissions will be paid to brokers, dealers or other persons (other than the Dealer Manager, and the Information Agent) for soliciting tenders of Shares pursuant to the Offer.

The Information Agent for the Offer is:

**GEORGESON
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Wall Street Plaza
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Banks and Brokers Call Collect: (212) 440-9800
or

All Others Call Toll Free: 1-800-223-2064

The Dealer Manager for the Offer is:

MORGAN STANLEY & CO.
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555 California Street
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San Francisco, California 94104
(415) 576-2331

November 26, 1996

Foreign fears grow over US-Japan insurance talks

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Stalled bilateral US-Japanese talks on insurance liberalization are causing ripples of concern across the global insurance market as the December 15 deadline for agreement looms, senior industry figures said yesterday.

Ian Carroll, chairman of the Foreign Non-Life Insurance Association of Japan, told Reuters that all foreign players were awaiting the outcome as any bilateral resolutions would be applied industry-wide in Japan.

Carroll said the prime concern of foreign insurers was that only Japanese insurers would benefit from the country's current liberalization strategy.

"The Japanese government is liberalizing, but it appears to be liberalizing only for the benefit of its domestic insurance companies," he said in a telephone interview from Tokyo.

The stalemate was making long term business planning impossible for foreign players, Carroll said.

"It is very difficult to do any serious business planning until you know the rules which you have to play by and for 12 months or longer, we just haven't had a firm idea of what our market will be," he said.

The US and Japan, at loggerheads over Japanese moves to liberalize its "third" insurance sector ahead of its primary life and non-life sectors, are due to discuss the issue again at a December 6 ministerial meeting in Tokyo.

The third sector is the market for personal accident, health and other niche insurance products and makes up about 5 percent of the total market. The remaining 95% is dominated by domestic Japanese insurers.

This sector is the only area where foreigners have a firm foothold and US insurance giant, American International Group (AIG) has an estimated 50% of the business.

The US says putting third sector liberalization first breaks a 1994 pact by Japan to open up its \$400 billion insurance market to full international competition.

"The concern of foreign insurers is that all the changes are occurring in this small sector and all the major changes for the bulk of the market are being delayed," Carroll said.

"Japan is giving the impression that it is opening up, but the reality is that it is not," said a director of an international insurance broking company

operating in Tokyo. The broker said another concern for foreign players was that any agreement could be influenced by the views of just one company, rather than by the industry as a whole.

A further worry for insurers is that talks are now so politicized they risk being sacrificed for expediency in other US and Japanese trade disputes.

"It has gone way beyond an insurance business issue now," a senior reinsurance executive in Tokyo told Reuters. "If it came down to it, I'm sure the US would consider a deal on auto parts more beneficial than one on insurance."

Hope was seen on two fronts. First, on news that Japan would pursue a five-year "Big Bang" liberalization strategy to allow cross-participation among banks, insurers and finance houses.

The second was on Japan's offer during talks on November 25-26 to deregulate direct marketing of motor insurance. Motor business represents about 50% of the whole market. One foreign insurance executive said both moves surprised Japanese insurers. "I think they are concerned that things might not be so cut and dried and cosy as they used to be," he said.

Taiwan to stop encouraging investment in South Africa

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwan said yesterday it would no longer encourage investment in South Africa, which plans to switch diplomatic ties to Beijing from Taipei next year, casting a shadow over the future of lucrative business links.

The move threw into question whether a \$3 billion petrochemical project by Taiwan's Tuntex Distinct Corp in South Africa, until now Taipei's biggest ally in a shrinking circle of friends, would go ahead.

"The government will not continue to encourage investments in South Africa," Chiang Ping-kun, chairman of the cabinet's Council for Economic Planning and Development, told reporters.

"Without government encouragement, it will be hard (for private investments) to proceed there," Chiang said when asked about the Tuntex plan. Tuntex, one of the island's major business groups, said earlier yesterday it would respect the government's wishes in deciding whether to continue its project.

"For this petrochemical plant project, the Tuntex group will decide whether to go ahead or stop depending on the (Taiwan) government's policy," Tuntex said in a statement.

South Africa, the biggest of just 30 mostly Central American and African states that recognize Taiwan rather than the communist People's Republic on the mainland, announced on Wednesday it would switch ties at the end of 1997.

Nearly 300 Taiwan businesses have operations in South Africa with investments topping \$1.5 billion. Taiwan Foreign Minister John Chang, addressing reporters yesterday morning, said Taipei would review the island's South Africa projects before making any final decision.

"In the next 12 months, we have a plan to do an overall review, including economic cooperation

projects," Chang said. The decision sent local stocks into a brief dive, but the market had recovered by the close and many executives played down any serious impact, saying business was booming.

"If South Africa really cuts ties with us...our banks will continue to expand their overseas points," Lai In-jaw, head of the Taiwan Provincial Government's finance department, told the provincial assembly.

Lai said provincial government-owned banks, representing the main force of state-run banks, have set up 41 branches or representatives abroad, including one in South Africa.

"Most of our points are located in countries with which we do not have diplomatic ties," Lai said. Stan Shih, chairman of Taiwan computer giant Acer, said any impact from the move would not be "particularly big."

"Just like our development in the United States, we are developing (business) in countries with which we don't have diplomatic ties, but we even list our subsidiaries in the stock markets there. There is, in fact, no deep impact," Shih said.

State utility Taiwan Power Co. said Pretoria's decision would not affect its coal and uranium purchases from South Africa. The stock market closed only 0.82 percent lower at 6,876.41 yesterday after falling sharply at the open on concern over the issue. Securities analysts were not pessimistic. "Many investors knew it (the severing of ties) was coming, and they felt it would not have a significant effect on the economy," said Yungli Securities analyst Chen Han-chung.

Taiwan has sought to use its economic muscle to counter rival China's efforts to isolate it diplomatically. Beijing has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since a civil war split them in 1949 and has threatened to retake the island by force if it goes for independence.

General Motors plans to build car aimed at Asian market

BANGKOK (Reuters) - General Motors Corp's new \$750 million Thai car plant will build a single car targeted exclusively at Asian markets in early 1999, the company's local chief executive said yesterday.

Ron Frizzell, president of General Motors Thailand, said the new car, which has yet to be named, is aimed at the lower middle section of the Asian family car market, competing in the same sector as the Toyota Corolla.

"It will be an all-new model in the lower medium segment of the market. It's a one-model car with three body types," Frizzell said.

"We intend to be competitive with mainstream prices in the segment we will compete in...30 percent of all passenger car sales in Asia are in this lower middle segment," he said.

Frizzell said saloon, hatchback and estate car models from the new Thai facility will span the price range within the lower middle passenger car market. Approximately 80 percent of the expected 100,000 annual output from the new Thai plant will be exported, mainly to Japan and Australia.

Prohibitive import tariffs will severely limit penetration into other Asian markets, Frizzell said.

The plant is scheduled for completion in 1998. Features of GM's car designed specifi-

cally for Asian customers include high specification air-conditioning.

GM said tires designed for high speeds and fitted as standard to European models will not be used on this new car.

The value of Thai content in the new car is expected to be 40-50 percent of the total cost, Frizzell said.

If demand for the new car proves to be as strong as GM expects, it will expand the factory to bring capacity up to 150,000 vehicles per year, he said.

The company's new Thai plant, being built at Rayong on the eastern seaboard, is GM's largest ever single Asian investment, and will employ an estimated 1,550 workers.

German private firm Eisenmann, which has already engaged by GM at its new Polish and Argentine plants, has won contracts to install the paint-shop and provide environmental services at the Thai site.

Company officials said tenders to install other facilities at the plant were under evaluation and would be awarded in the first quarter of 1997.

GM's decision in May to locate the factory in Thailand, which is rapidly becoming the center for South East Asia's auto industry, followed an intense bidding competition with the Philippines.

Uranium could clean up industrial sewage

LONDON (Reuters) - Uranium, not usually known as an environmentally friendly element, could be used to clean up industrial waste, British researchers reported on Wednesday.

Adding uranium to toxic waste can allow for it to be incinerated safely, Graham Hutchings and colleagues at the University of Liverpool said. Such wastes are usually destroyed by heating them to very high temperatures - sometimes more than 1,000 degrees C (1,800 degrees F), but this process can create poisonous by-products such as dioxins.

Using a catalyst to enhance destruction helps, but current catalysts based on precious metals such as platinum break down quickly. Hutchings' group tried out uranium oxide and found it worked well. "Catalysts based on uranium oxide efficiently destroy a range of hydrocarbon and chlorine-containing pollutants, and these catalysts are resistant to deactivation," they wrote in a study published in the science journal *Nature*. "We show that benzene, toluene, chlorobutane and chlorobenzene can be destroyed at moderate temperatures (less than 400 degrees C) and industrially relevant flow rates."

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UK gov't orders inquiry into merger plan

LONDON (AP) - The government yesterday ordered an inquiry into the planned merger of a Swedish and a British ferry operator on grounds the new company could stifle competition on the English Channel crossing.

Swedish-owned Stena and Britain's P & O European Ferries protested that the inquiry by the state-funded Monopolies and Mergers Commission was unnecessary and hampered their plans.

The companies say they have lost about half their traffic to the undersea Channel Tunnel linking England and France, although business has picked up since a November 18 fire temporarily closed the Channel Tunnel.

Trade Secretary Ian Lang ordered the inquiry to report within three months.

Stena Chairman Dan Sten Olsson said the inquiry delayed the merger by three months. "Until then we will continue to compete as two separate and individual companies," he said.

P & O Chairman Lord Sterling said the Channel Tunnel fire did not change the underlying situation.

Last month the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union, ruled that the companies fixed prices on freight services in November 1992.

P & O was fined £320,000 and Stena, formerly Stena Link, £80,000.

US markets were closed yesterday for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

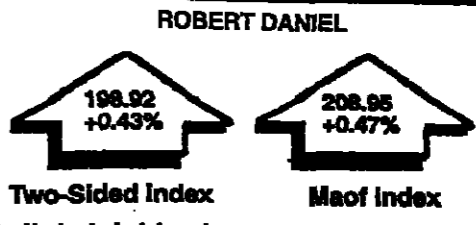
Multi-sided trading

Table with columns for Name, Price, % Change, Volume, and Shares. Lists various stocks under categories like Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, and Oil Exploration.

Two-sided trading

Table with columns for Name, Price, % Change, Volume, and Shares. Lists various stocks under categories like AFTERNOON and MORNING.

Shares climb on good results at Osem, Elbit



SHARES climbed, led by rises at Osem Investments Ltd., Elbit Systems Ltd. and Nice Systems Ltd., and helped by a weaker shekel.

Holding back the market was Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., which represents nearly 10 percent of the Maof index. The drug maker slipped 0.5% after its stock traded on Wall Street eased the equivalent of 1.3%.

The Two-sided index rose 0.43% to 198.92, while the Maof stocks added 0.47% to 208.95.

"The market loves the results" an analyst at the Israel desk of the currency market said.

The currency weakened to 3.257 to the dollar from 3.252 yesterday. That's good news for exporters, whose products become cheaper for overseas buyers. They also pay costs and salaries in weaker local currency and earn revenue in stronger dollars.

UK shares close higher

LONDON (AP) - Share prices rose yesterday on the London Stock Exchange. The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index finished up 1.0 points, or 0.02 percent, at 4,050.2. The Financial Times 30-Share Index closed up 3.8 points, or 0.13 percent, at 2,824.2.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table showing exchange rates for Mark, Sterling, Yen, Sfr, and FFy against a base currency.

Bolton thrashes Spurs in Coca Cola Cup, Leicester upsets Manchester United

LONDON (AP) - Scottish international John McGinlay scored three times as Division One leader Bolton crushed Premier League Tottenham 6-1 in the League Cup Wednesday night while Leicester ousted mighty Manchester United 2-0.

In other fourth round games, Liverpool overpowered Arsenal 4-2 and Middlesbrough ended an eight-game winless run by downing neighbor Newcastle 3-1.

Division Two Stockport gained a 1-1 tie at Premier League West Ham to force a replay.

Wednesday's results mean that Bolton, Leicester, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Tuesday's winners Wimbledon and Ipswich are in the last eight. Southampton and Oxford are other teams who have to replay.

Bolton 6, Tottenham 1

McGinlay, who netted Scotland's winner in a 1-0 World Cup victory over Sweden two weeks ago, scored Bolton's first in the sixth minute before England striker Teddy Sheringham curled home a 20-yard free kick for 1-1.

McGinlay's close range shot restored Bolton's lead and then Northern Ireland defender Geary Taggart made it 3-1 in the 60th.

McGinlay netted his fourth in the 74th and further goals from Nathan Blake and Scott Taylor completed Spurs' misery.

Leics 2, Man. Utd 0

Manchester United again fielded several young players, especially in defense, to rest big name players and fell behind seven minutes before half time when Steve Claridge volleyed home after Emile Heskey's back-heel 38th minute.

Heskey made it 2-0 in the 77th minute against a United team which has now lost six of its last seven league and cup games.

Liverpool 4, Arsenal 2

At Anfield, Ian Wright put the Gunners ahead with a 13th minute penalty after co-striker John Hartson had been floored by Liverpool goalkeeper David James.

Steve McManaman equalized in the 26th minute header from Stig Inge Bjorneby's left-wing cross and then Robbie Fowler shot home a 39th minute penalty after referee Alan Wilkie ruled that Lee



HOLD IT - Arsenal's John Hartson is brought down by Liverpool's goalkeeper David James to concede a penalty during their Coca Cola Cup fourth round match on Wednesday night. Ian Wright scored from the spot, but Liverpool still won easily.

Dixon had handled. Fowler made it 3-1 in the 52nd minute, Arsenal defender Steve Bould was sent off for a second yellow card before Wright's second in the 68th cut the lead to one. Czech forward Patrick Berger clinched Liverpool's win in the 72nd minute.

Middlesbrough 3, Newcastle 1

In a high-quality thriller at the Riverside stadium, 'Boro's Scottish international defender Derek Whyne forced the ball home from five yards in the 27th minute after Newcastle failed to clear a corner. David Ginola skimmed the 'Boro crossbar five minutes before half time before Alan Shearer

headed home Keith Gillespie's corner for the equalizer. Danish forward Mikkel Beck restored 'Boro's ahead in the 61st minute after brilliant creative play by Brazilians Emerson and Juninho and Italian star Fabrizio Ravanelli. Seven minutes from time 'Boro keeper Walsh made a reflex

action save to keep out Ginola's low shot but then Ravanelli turned home Juninho's right wing cross for the clincher.

BRITISH SOCCER RESULTS: League Cup Round 4: Bolton 6, Tottenham 1; Leicester 2, Manchester United 0; Liverpool 4, Arsenal 2; Middlesbrough 3, Newcastle 1; West Ham 1, Stockport 1.

Newcastle, Arsenal fight for Premier League lead

LONDON (AP) - Three days after they were both ousted from the League Cup, Newcastle and Arsenal meet Saturday to decide who tops the Premier League.

One point separates the Magpies from the Gunners and, with third place Liverpool not in action until Monday, both know that one or the other will be top come tomorrow night.

Newcastle lost 3-1 at neighbor Middlesbrough in Wednesday's League Cup game, while Arsenal suffered a 4-2 loss at Liverpool.

The one positive outcome of those defeats is that the teams now will concentrate harder on the other competitions.

"Twenty five per cent of our chances of winning something this season have gone but we've still got plenty left to fight for," said Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan.

His team also has a great chance of reaching the last eight of the UEFA Cup and has the Football Association Cup to look forward to in January.

"We will have to look for another route now but we've still got three chances to win something," Keegan said.

For Arsenal, make that two. The Gunners were unexpectedly ousted early from the UEFA Cup back in September and now only have the Premier League and the FA Cup to come.

Although Keegan still has England striker Les Ferdinand sidelined with a fractured cheekbone, he and Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hope to field all their other stars in the game at Newcastle's St. James' Park.

Wenger had to withdraw Dennis Bergkamp from his starting line-up against Liverpool as the Dutchman aggravated a thigh strain in the warm-up. But Bergkamp should be back against the Magpies alongside free-scoring Ian Wright to face a Newcastle defense which has talented Belgian Philippe Albert at its heart.

A tough Arsenal rearguard that includes England internationals Lee Dixon, Tony Adams, Martin Keown and Nigel Winterburn and is backed by goalkeeper David Seaman, will face up to England captain Alan Shearer, French forward David Ginola and mercurial Colombian Faustino Asprilla.

In midfield, Arsenal's Patrick Vieira, David Platt and Paul

Merson will be mixing it with David Batty and Peter Beardsley. Tomorrow's game has all the ingredients to make it a high-powered thriller. But a tie will give Liverpool the chance to leapfrog both on Monday by winning at a Tottenham team stunned by Wednesday's 6-1 loss to division one Bolton in the League Cup.

Leicester City hopes for a repeat of its League Cup beating of Manchester United although it is likely to meet a transformed Reds lineup.

The Foxes scored a 2-0 victory to oust Alex Ferguson's team from the League Cup Wednesday. But Ferguson fielded eight of his reserve players to rest his stars and Leicester almost certainly will face the return of Peter Schmeichel, Eric Cantona, Ryan Giggs, Nicky Butt, Gary Neville, David Beckham and Ronnie Johnson.

Fourth place Wimbledon, on the back of a 16-game unbeaten run and also in the last eight of the League Cup after eliminating defending titlist Aston Villa Tuesday, can stay in touch with the leaders by winning at home to last place Nottingham Forest.

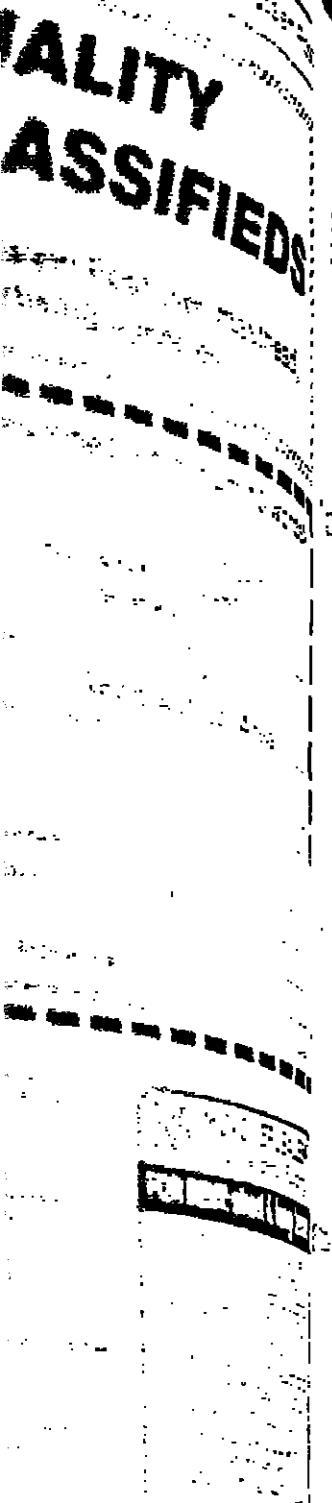
After losing its first three games without scoring a goal, the Dons have been unbeaten since August. Contrast that with Forest, third-place finisher in the league 18 months ago which hasn't won this season since beating Coventry 3-0 on the opening day.

Sixth place Chelsea, which has five points to make up on Newcastle, visits a Leeds team still trying to turn its slide around under new manager George Graham.

Last weekend, Leeds won 2-0 at Southampton and Graham's team will need that same steely determination to hold a Chelsea lineup likely to include Italian stars Gianfranco Zola, Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo with coach Rued Gullit on the bench.

Middlesbrough's victory over Newcastle Wednesday was its first in nine games and will be a boost going into a tough game at eighth place Aston Villa.

In other games tomorrow, next-to-last Blackburn hosts fellow struggler Southampton, second-from-last Coventry goes to mid-standings Derby, improving Everton welcomes Sunderland and Sheffield Wednesday hosts West Ham.



DWELLINGS
Jerusalem Area

NARKISS
REAL ESTATE

Old Talpuzit - 3 (orig. 4), charming, greenery!
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CAPITAL 02-679-4911, OLD KATAMON, 4 (1 small), third floor, modernized, charming, facing south, quiet.

CAPITAL 02-679-4911, MAHALOT, 7, quiet renovated corner house, patio, superb view from roof terrace.

CAPITAL 02-679-4911, OLD KATAMON, 5, ground floor, private garden, quiet location, covered parking, private heating, storage room.

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NEW PROJECT - THE continuation of Great Oranim - NOV ORANIM - penthouse, garden apartments, 3,4,5,6 rooms, superb views, succa balconies, Shabbat elevators. For further details - Tel. 02-679-4911.

SHAI AGNON, 4, luxurious, breathtaking view, spacious, bargain, Tel. 02-642-6363 (Natalie).

2 ROOM APARTMENT, Italian Colony, Hildersheimer Street, Jerusalem, no agents, Tel. 02-652-1535.

ACADEMY HOUSE, MAGNIFICENT, 4 rooms, superb interior design, store-room, swimming pool. Keys with ambassador, Tel. 02-561-8101.

ANGLO SAXON REALTY: Bargain! Ramat Eshkol, 4, view, quiet, large living room, \$198,000. Tel. 02-625-1161 (Maldan).

BAKA, BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED 6 room cottage, garden, basement, parking, CORINNE DAVAR, Tel. 02-673-3385.

BAKA, DUPLEX, 4 + 23 sq.m., attic, quiet, leafy, Exclusive to CORINNE DAVAR, Tel. 02-673-3385.

BAKA, QUIET, 3 & 4 rooms, ground and 1st floor, potential, \$235,000, \$255,000, JERUSALEM RESIDENCES, Tel. 02-672-5259.

BALFOUR, 4, LARGE, 3rd floor, bright, directions + terraces, Exclusive to KING DAVID REALTY, Tel. 02-6244331, 02-601559.

BARTENURA, 5, spacious, low floor, room size, Fortepoship, basket, parking, Exclusive for NADLAN YASHIR, Tel. 02-622-2566.

BARGAIN, GREAT LOCATION! Baka, 3, 2nd floor, corner + rights, IDAN, Tel. 02-673-4834F.

BAYIT VEGAN (UZIEL), 4, private entrance, 1st floor, storeroom, terrace, \$250,000, Shira exclusive through ANGLO SAXON, Tel. 02-625-1161.

BAYIT VEGAN, BETWEEN Michlin/Uziel, 4, convenient floor, view, storeroom, Exclusive to AMBASSADOR, Tel. 02-561-8101.

BEIT HAKEREM (TIZMACH), 4 (120 sq.m.), terrace with view to forest, redecorated, storeroom, parking, Shira exclusive through ANGLO SAXON, Tel. 02-625-1161.

BEIT HAKEREM, QUIET street, 3, in well cared for building, renovated with architect. Must see! ZIMUKI, Tel. 02-563-8221.

BEIT HAKEREM, NEW building, 4, private entrance, porch + storeroom, \$475,000, GANEI DAVID, Tel. 02-6666740, 052-635607 (NIS).

BEIT HAKEREM, NEW building, 5 + garden + courtyard, private entrance, suitable for studio, \$675,000, GANEI DAVID, Tel. 02-6666740, 052-635607 (NIS).

BEIT VEGAN, 4, 1/2, air conditioning, fully renovated, 1st floor, porch, immediate occupancy, Tel. 02-662-2471.

BEIT ZAYIT COUNTRY living, 2 beautiful villas, 165 sq.m., 150 sq.m. building rights, 2/7 dunnams, landscaped garden, stables, panoramic views, Shira exclusive through ANGLO SAXON MEVASSERET, Tel. 02-533-0088, 052-629725.

BEN ZVI REALTY for sale: Rehavia, exclusive penthouse, 8 + terrace, elevator and parking, near Yeshurun, 3.5 + succa balcony + Shabbat elevator, Tel. 02-563-0066, 02-563-1594.

CHARACTER, UNIQUE, LUXURIOUS! Abu Tor, 4 rooms originally, 95 sq. m., in a small Arabic villa, 20 stairs, building rights on the roof, private garden, 170 sq. m., garden shed 4 sq. m., huge kitchen, double W.C., bidet, whirlpool for two, French kamin, private, Tel. 02-671-3395.

DUPLEX, HASHMONAIM, MODERN 7 + attic large kitchen, immediate, \$280,000, Tel. 052-577856.

EAST TALPIOT, 5 rooms, low floor, garden access, tastefully renovated, HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Tel. 02-561-1222, Ehud.

EXCLUSIVE GIVAT CANADA 3 especially spacious, quiet with view, \$220,000, exclusive through Shira for RUT ENGLIA, Tel. 02-676-5650.

FOR SALE, ARNONA, penthouse, 180, view, elevator, covered parking, no agents, \$550,000, Tel. 03-6430884, 052-787768.

FRENCH HILL (TZAMERET HABIRA), 3.5, Opportunity! Must see! Keys by AM GAR, Tel. 02-561-8101.

FRENCH HILL, 3 rooms, availability parking, \$175,000, keys by Am-Gar, Tel. 02-561-8883.

GAN REHAVIA, 3 rooms, balconies, high ceilings, excellent location, HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Tel. 02-561-1222, Chana.

GERMAN COLONY, 2, quiet, central, 20 sq.m. basement, garden, underground parking, immediate, *ISRABUILD* Tel. 02-5665571.

GERMAN COLONY, WELL-APPOINTED modern cottage, 8 rooms, garden, separate entrance, Exclusive CORINNE DAVAR, Tel. 02-673-3385.

GERMAN COLONY, 3, quiet, central, new building, parking, balconies, immediate, ISRABUILD, Tel. 02-566-5571.

GIVAT MORDECHAI, 6 rooms, 2 kitchens, balcony + studio apartment (separate entrance), Tel. 02-576-7657.

GIVAT YEARMIM, VILLA American style, custom designed, Tel. 02-6714322, 02-672-1570, Sigalit, Evenings, Tel. 03-556-1742.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY, WOLFSON, 5, 11th floor, view of Knesset, storage, parking, \$495,000, ISRABUILD, Tel. 02-566-5571.

GUSH ETZION, VILLA for religious family, special design, 240 sq.m. + parking, large garden, panoramic view, Tel. 02-953-2685.

HAR NOF (CHAL-TAIR), 5 rooms, completely renovated, + terrace + garden + double convenience + storage, very special, exclusive to T.K.M. Multi-line, Tel. 02-659-4500.

HARLAP ST., \$450,000, renovated, sunny, 2nd floor, \$450,000, Tel. 02-563-4373.

JERUSALEM PLAZA HOTEL! luxurious, 3.5 room suite (150 sq.m.), large balcony, view of Old City, Shira exclusive through ANGLO SAXON, Tel. 02-625-1161.

KIRYAT SHMUEL (TAYASSIM), 3.5, spacious, sunny, quiet, storeroom, 3rd floor, Tel. 02-573-2311.

KIRYAT SHMUEL, 3.5, spacious ground floor, 3 balconies, stairs to garden, Exclusive to ALEX LOSKY Real Estate 19 King David St., Tel. 02-625-5595.

OLD KATAMON, PROJECT Tel Hai, apartments, 3,4,5,6, gardens, balcony, parking, storage rooms, exclusive to AVI KOREN LTD, Tel. 02-671-9740.

MAOZ ZION, 7 km from Jerusalem, in beautiful rural setting, Mediterranean-style villa, newly built, 5 bedrooms, 3 bath + guest toilet, beautiful designer kitchen + built in cupboards, central heating, private parking, view of hills, close to shopping mall, immediate occupation, Fax: 02-538589, Tel. 02-5385250.

MEGIDDO TOWERS - 5 facing the Knesset, 5 floors, 50 units, 501,000, AMBASSADOR, Tel. 02-561-8101.

MEVASSERET, VILLA, 400 sq. m. + garden + breathtaking view (2 separate units of 2 stories each), Tel. 02-534-8042.

MOSHAV MATA, VILLA, American style, custom designed, Tel. 02-6714344, Sigalit, Evenings, Tel. 03-9561742, 02-672675, Ad.

MUSRARA, 3, QUIET, balcony, near King David St., Tel. 02-625-5595.

MUSRARA, UNIQUE, SMARTLY renovated old Arab basement apartment, Shira exclusive through ANGLO SAXON MEVASSERET, Tel. 02-533-0088.

NAHALOT, SMALL HOUSE (20 security building rights; Shira exclusive through YEELEIM REALTY, Tel. 02-532-1159.

NAHALOT, 3-4 ROOMS, stone house with character, + shared courtyard, Tel. 02-535-4375.

NAHALOT, BEAUTIFUL PRIVATE house, 4, new, high standards, T.A.C. Tel. 02-563-1784.

NAHALOT, HOUSE, 4.5 rooms, stylish, building possible, exclusive to BAIT, Tel. 02-625-9268, (Maldan).

OLD KATAMONI QUIET area, stone house + heat, 3, renovated + sun and view, ZIMUKI, Tel. 02-563-8221.

OLD KATAMON, ARAB house, quiet and green, ground floor, garden, 3, renovated, \$285,000, JERUSALEM RESIDENCES, Tel. 02-672-6256.

OLD KATAMON-MOSHAVA, 4, large, balcony, quiet, fine location, storage, parking, Shira through ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE, 19 King David St., Tel. 02-623-5595.

PISGAT ZE'EV, NEW "Build your own home" area, luxurious villa, 9, immediate, Tel. 02-5854742, 050-248193.

RAMAT ESHKOL, 3 rooms, low floor, spacious, central, immediate, HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Tel. 02-561-1222, Ehud.

RAMAT ESHKOL, BEAUTIFUL, 2 1/2 rooms, like three, 112 sq. m., 3rd floor, elevator, view, parking, opposite commercial center, no agents, \$275,000, Tel. 02-561-4298.

RAMAT ESHKOL, 3.5, 90 sq.m., American kitchen, double convenience, well-invested, Tel. 050-253-294, 050-350008.

RAMAT ESHKOL, 4 rooms, large living room \$220,000, AM-GAR, Tel. 02-561-8533.

RAMOT GIMMEL, COTTAGE 4 1/2, balcony, garden, possible to expand, well kept, Tel. 02-556-4586.

RAMOT MORGENTHAU STREET, terraced apartment, 5, 2 large balconies, storeroom, good exposures, Tel. 02-566-7880, 02-672-1017 (Eva).

RABCO - HARLAMACH, 4, large, 2nd floor, beautiful, huge balcony, storage, parking, ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE, 19 King David St., Tel. 02-623-5595.

REHAVIA (DISKIN), 6, luxurious terrace, fabulous view, parking, elevator, Anglo Saxon (Maldan), Tel. 02-625-1161.

REHAVIA, (SHAI AGNON), 5.5, luxurious, large, 5th floor + lift, \$650,000, Tel. 02-6244415, 050-250228.

REHAVIA, 4 ROOMS, prime location, succa, balcony, luxurious, HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Tel. 02-561-1222, Dafna.

REHAVIA, 5 ROOMS, easy access, parking, storeroom, prime location, HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Tel. 02-561-1222, Dafna.

REHAVIA, UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 168 sq.m., future to be personally designed, \$550,000, AMBASSADOR, Tel. 02-561-8101.

REHAVIA, UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 168 sq.m., future to be personally designed, \$550,000, AMBASSADOR, Tel. 02-561-8101.

REHAVIA HESED, SPECIAL VILLA, 10 rooms, excellent condition + yard, immediate availability, flexible price, ZIMUKI, Tel. 02-563-8221.

SHA'AREI HESED, MAGNIFICENT villa, 300 sq.m., large bedrooms each with its own bathroom, garden, 150 sq.m., AMBASSADOR, Tel. 02-561-8101.

SHIMONI, 5, PARKING, elevator, storage, air conditioning, Tel. 02-678-1271, 052-686-413.

TALBIEH (LINCOLN), GROUND floor, garden, private heating, good investment, Shira exclusive through ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE, 19 King David St., Tel. 02-623-5595.

TALBIEH, (NEAR LAROMME), 5, 150 sq.m. balcony, elevator, parking, \$850,000, AMBASSADOR, Tel. 02-561-8101.

TALBIEH, 2.5 ROOMS, top floor, charming, balcony, renovated, HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Tel. 02-561-1222, Dafna.

TALBIEH, 37 1st FLOOR, excellent location, renovated, \$320,000, HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Tel. 02-561-1222.

TALBIEH, 4, FIRST floor, quiet, special, good exposures, view, exclusive to ALEX LOSKY Real Estate, 19 King David St., Tel. 02-623-5595.

TALBIEH, ARCHITECT DESIGNED spacious, 6, entrance hall, 3 bathrooms, balcony, CORINNE DAVAR, Tel. 02673-3385, MONTFORTRE - Tel. 02-625-2071.

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Unique, distinct and beautiful, brand-new modern 3-story home in center of Jerusalem, with great appreciation potential. Quiet area, gorgeous view of Gan Sacher garden.
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VERDANT KIRYAT YOVEL, private house, 100 sq.m. built, property of 484 sq.m., potential, \$470,000, exclusive through Shira for Canaan Realty, Tel. 02-943-2252 (Maldan).

YEFE NOF, 3 rooms, big balcony, quiet, elevator, view, HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Tel. 02-561-1222, Dafna.

YEMIN MOSHE, RARE find, villa, 9, spacious, magnificent view, 4 levels, including 2 separate studio apartments. Multi-functional, 3 exposures, Shira exclusive through ANGLO SAXON, Tel. 02-625-1161, 052-529725.

DWELLINGS
Tel Aviv

HOLIDAY RENTALS

BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY APARTMENTS tourists / businessmen, short / long term, DYNAMI, Tel. 03-546-8003, Fax: 03-546-9667.

BUSINESS AND HOLIDAY apartments, Tel Aviv center, seashore, equipped, Tel. 03-527-1992, 052-561993, 050-299-034.

TEL AVIV, BY sea, 5.5, new + covered parking for two years, TOVADO REALTY, Tel. 03-687-7715.

RENTALS

FOR RENT Sea Tower Hotel Tel Aviv 3 room apartment + 100 sq.m. balconies. Fully furnished, see view Bargain!!!

M.A.N. Properties
Tel: 03-54919151 Fax: 03-5628787

4/3 ROOMS, FURNISHED, PARKING, suitable embassy, short/long term "The Key" Tel. 03-5244496.

BASEL, 2.5, FURNISHED - air conditioning, closets, rent, quiet and organized, Tel. 052-868-800.

BEAUTIFUL, NEWLY RENOVATED 4.5 room unfurnished apartment. Near Tel Aviv University. No agents. Tel. 02-534-3508.

BEST APARTMENTS, BEST locations, short / long term, best prices. Short / long term. Tel. 03-523-9180.

HILTON - FACING Sea, 150 sq.m., luxurious without furniture, NEVEH, Tel. 03-522-0447.

IMMEDIATE, 10, NEW kitchen, air conditioning, 1st, double parking, near Gan Hair, \$2500, Tel. 03-648-9417 (near Sunday).

KIRYAT ONO, THROUGH private, garden apartment, 4 + garden + apartment, 5, exclusive building, Tel. 03-642-6417, 03-535-1534.

QUATYIM, BOROCHOV TOWER luxury apartment, 190 sq.m., 11th floor, semi-furnished, air conditioned, \$2000, Tel. 02-561-2489.

FOR RENT Sea Tower Hotel Tel Aviv 3 room apartment + 100 sq.m. balconies. Fully furnished, see view Bargain!!!

TOURISTS/BUSINESSMEN; BEAUTIFUL RENOVATED suites/apartments, short/long term. Rental/Sale. Penthouse, Tel. 03-5285037; Fax: 03-5295901.

FOR SALE LUXURY OCEAN VIEW APARTMENTS 1-2 BEDROOMS in the Opera Tower Tel. 03-549-9498, 052-536687

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES
TORA PORTION *Wayshah*

HAIFA-CHRISTIAN
BEIT ELIAHU (EVANGELICAL) Messianic Congregation, Haifa, 43 Meir Street, Tel. 04-523581.

JER-CHRISTIAN
JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH - The Baptist House Center, 64 Narkiss Street, Sunday, 11 a.m., Tel. 02-6255942.

REDEEMER CHURCH, Lutheran, Murnstein Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 276111,281049.

PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP Service, Mt. Zion Fellowship, Fri. Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sun. 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m., Tel. 02-562-8964.

JERUSALEM

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

MORESHET YISRAEL - Conservative 4 Agron Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Services: Minha 4:20p.m., Shaharit 8:30 a.m., Minha 3:35 p.m., Daily Miryam 7:00 a.m.

SHARON

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Non-denom. Sat. 10:00 to noon. Near ACSS/Sheikhayim exit-Haifa Hill, Cal Karson 08-955-9434, Luka 05-954-5818.

TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN

BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION, 3 km. north of Petah Tikva, near Yarkon Junction, Sabbath Bible study Saturday 9:45 a.m. Worship hour, 10:45 a.m. Tel. 08-582645.

Immanuel Church (Lutheran), Tel Aviv-Yafo, 15 Beer Hofman (near 17 Eliaz Street), Tel. 03-6820564 Saturday service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

WHERE TO GO

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WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sat. 11 a.m. from Boardman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 862818.

AMIT WOMEN: See Israel's future. Visit our projects. Sun-Thurs. a.m. - Jerusalem 02-5618222 - Tel Aviv 03-5272528

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

CONDUCTED TOURS Tourists and Visitors, come and see the General Israel Organisations Home for Girls, Jerusalem. The market activities and impressively modern buildings. Free Guided tours weekdays, 9-12 Bus no. 14, 24 or 5, Kiryat Moshe, 523291.

ARTGUIDE

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ART GUIDE

HAIFA
THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM, (Haifa University), Permanent exhibition: The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - 18th and 19th century - World War II - Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City, Sun-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM
MUSEUMS
OLD YESHUV COURT MUSEUM, Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century - World War II - Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City, Sun-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART

Following the Shock: Graffiti in the Yitzhak Rabin Squares, until Dec. 7. Ten years to the Ministry of Education Prize in Plastic Arts, Portrait - by a group of Israeli artists, Vitruvius Realty - the domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art - Face to Face. The Museum Collections, HELEN RUBIN-STEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David New Works, Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tue., 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 0919155-8.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, November 29
Jerusalem: Jaffa Gate, 628-3898; Batsam, Salah e-Din, 827-2315; Shuafat, Shuaflat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herods Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Bloch, 38 Bloch, 522-6428; Miasel, 11 Harleim, 638-778; Shlomo Ramana-Kfar, Sava, Haragil, 47 Rothschild, Kfar Sava, 765-2520.
Netanya: Hanassal, 36 Weizmann, 823638.
Haifa: Hanassal, 33 Hanassal, 833-3312.
Kiryat Arava: Hayesod, 78 Kerem Hayesod, Kiryat Bialik, 870-4185.
Herzliya: Ciel Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Masaki (nr. Sdeot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Ciel Pharm, Lev Har'ei Meit, 570468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

JERUSALEM

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock. Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-4110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Ezan - Emotional First Aid, Jerusalem 56-10303, Tel Aviv 545-1111 (children/youth 686-1113), Haifa 887-2222, BeerSheva 649-4333, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kir Sava 974555, Hadera 348788.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Friday, November 29
Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (Internal); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (pediatrics).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery).
Netanya: Lamiado.

NETANYA

Saturday, November 30
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (pediatrics).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery).
Netanya: Lamiado.

HAIFA

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-505720.

Wino hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-545-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic).

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1806, Sunday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chlo St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jim. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7876.

Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7876.

Ashtod 0551333 Nir Sava 9902222 Ashdod 6551232 Nelyahu 9812239 BeerSheva 6274787 Netanya 8044444 Beit Shimon 6523138 Petah Tikva 9811111

Ashtod 0551333 Nir Sava 9902222 Ashdod 6551232 Nelyahu 9812239 BeerSheva 6274787 Netanya 8044444 Beit Shimon 6523138 Petah Tikva 9811111

Haifa: Balpuz, 1 Masada, 852-2268. Kiryat Arava: Super Pharm, Haldiyon, 44 Hovav, Kiryat Bialik, 877-9320. Herzliya: Ciel Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6

Haifa: Balpuz, 1 Masada, 852-2268. Kiryat Arava: Super Pharm, Haldiyon, 44 Hovav, Kiryat Bialik, 877-9320. Herzliya: Ciel Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6

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* CAESAREA, MOST ATTRACTIVE! 400 sq.m. built house on 1 dunam plot. Very high standard of finish, swimming pool, \$680,000.
* ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOOD IN CAESAREA! House on 1.5 dunam plot. Option to build another unit, \$800,000.
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CAESAREA, PARDES HANNAH/KARKUR
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(and cranberry sauce)
PARDES HANNAH/KARKUR
● 3 room older house on marvelous street for rent at \$380.00 monthly.
● Wonderful plot of 1480 sq.m. with little old house in the best of neighborhoods - \$310,000
● Plot of 700 sq.m. (private land), great location - \$145,000 - ready for building.
KATZIR
● 3 room semi-detached on plot of 250 sq.m. with good view - \$85,000
CAESAREA
● Lovely garden apt. near sea and country club - \$225,000.
● Semi-detached, completely landscaped, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, internal patio - \$425,000.
ANGLO SAXON, Caesarea, Parades Hannah - Karkur
Service with a North American accent! Please phone 02-232178 or 06-271568 for further details or information about properties from \$75,000 - \$2,200,000

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Unprecedented Offer!
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Hap. TA's troubles add interest to derby with Maccabi

ORI LEWIS

THE Tel Aviv derby will be played tomorrow in the shadow of the deepening crisis at Hapoel Tel Aviv and the conflict between some of the fans, the management and manager Moshe Sinai.

Sinai's head is on the chopping block after a string of terrible results which has been caused by a combination of reasons, most notably poor financial management of the club, which is said to be in debts of as much as NIS 11 million.

League leaders Betar Jerusalem, in prime form at the moment, will want to celebrate the recall of Eli Ohana to the national team in front of their home fans with another win, and there is no reason why they should not do so over Hapoel Kfar Sava.

Betar's other star, striker Ronen Harazi, now looks certain to join Sundeland after agreeing his financial terms with the English club yesterday.

Hapoel Taiba will host second-placed Hapoel Petah Tikva at their new home away from home in Umm el-Fahm in a match which should provide much action, as both sides will be desperate for points, but for very different reasons, will be going all out for a win.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches kick off tomorrow at 14:30 unless stated otherwise):

Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Zefira Holon, Petah Tikva; Hapoel Haifa v. Hapoel Beit She'an, Kiryat Eliezer 15:00; Hapoel Beersheva v. Ironi Rishon LeZion, Beersheva; Maccabi Herzliya v. Hapoel Jerusalem, Herzliya today 14:30; Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, National Stadium 17:45 (televized match on Channel 2); Betar Jerusalem v. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Today Stadium 16:00; Enei Yehuda v. Maccabi Haifa, Hatikva Quarter; Hapoel Taiba v. Hapoel Petah Tikva, Umm el-Fahm.

Weidenfeld, Erlich square off today in Masters satellite final

HEATHER CHAIT

RAVTV Weidenfeld will play Eyal Erlich in today's final of the Masters event in Beersheva. A climatic end to decide the best player of the four-week satellite.

Each of these players won one stage of the tournament and both will be hungry to collect the ten bonus points awarded to today's winner.

Yesterday top seed Weidenfeld outlasted Ofer Sela, playing in fine form, in a match that continued three hours.

Weidenfeld eventually won 3-6, 7-6(3/6), 6-2 but before Sela wasted two matchpoints in the second set.

Second seed Eyal Erlich spent much less energy against Mehdi Tahiri from Morocco, winning 6-0, 6-4.

The Moroccan attempted a fight in the second set but Erlich surged ahead at 4-4.

Harel Levy and Noam Okun won their second successive doubles title of the satellite, beating Weidenfeld and Jim Thomas from America 7-6(7/2), 6-0. Today's singles final begins at 2:30pm.

British soccer coverage on Page 17

The Sun finally rises for Phoenix 'Perfect record' ends with home win over New Jersey

PHOENIX (AP) - Wesley Person scored a season-high 22 points, Michael Finley added 13 and Kevin Johnson had 17 points and eight assists on Wednesday night as the Suns beat the New Jersey Nets 99-77 for their first win of this season after 13 straight losses.

Kendall Gill had 18 points for the Nets, who came into the game as the NBA's worst-shooting team (40 percent) and didn't reach that level.

The victory was the first for coach Danny Ainge, who took over when Cotton Fitzsimmons stepped aside after the eighth loss. Phoenix was desperate to avoid matching the NBA record for a season-opening losing streak, 17 straight by the Miami Heat in 1988.

Celtics 110, Lakers 94 Antoine Walker and Dino Radja scored 19 points each and host Boston kept the ball from Shaquille O'Neal in the fourth quarter as they beat Los Angeles.

Los Angeles scored eight straight points to close an 11-point deficit to 96-93 with 2:49 left, but Boston reclaimed control as Dana Barros' 3-pointer began a 14-1 game-ending rally.

Los Angeles, playing its sixth game in nine days, was led by O'Neal with 22 points and 10 rebounds and Eddie Jones with 19 points. O'Neal managed just one point in the final period and was scoreless in the last eight minutes.

Magic 79, Hawks 75 Nick Anderson, shut down offensively for 45 minutes, made three 3-pointers in the final 2:40 as host Orlando overcame poor shooting to beat Atlanta.

Rony Seikaly grabbed two of his 19 rebounds and made 3 of 4 free throws in the last 17.9 seconds to help the Magic hold off the Hawks, who missed 15 of 19 shots while scoring just 12 points in the fourth quarter.

Seikaly finished with 16 points and Darrell Armstrong and Anderson scored 14 apiece for the Magic, who shot 39 percent from the field. Dikembe Mutombo scored 20 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and blocked four shots for Atlanta.

Raptors 92, Hornets 88 Popeye Jones grabbed a club-record 18 rebounds and made two key free throws with 23 seconds left as Toronto ended a six-game losing streak.

The loss ended a four-game winning streak for the Hornets, including a home victory over Seattle on Tuesday that ended the Sonics' winning streak at 11 games.

Glenn Ledford of the Hornets with 29 points, but he shot only 3-of-11 in the second half.

Pistons 87, Grizzlies 78 Lindsey Hunter made four 3-pointers in the first five minutes and scored 24 points to lead host Detroit over the abandoned Grizzlies.

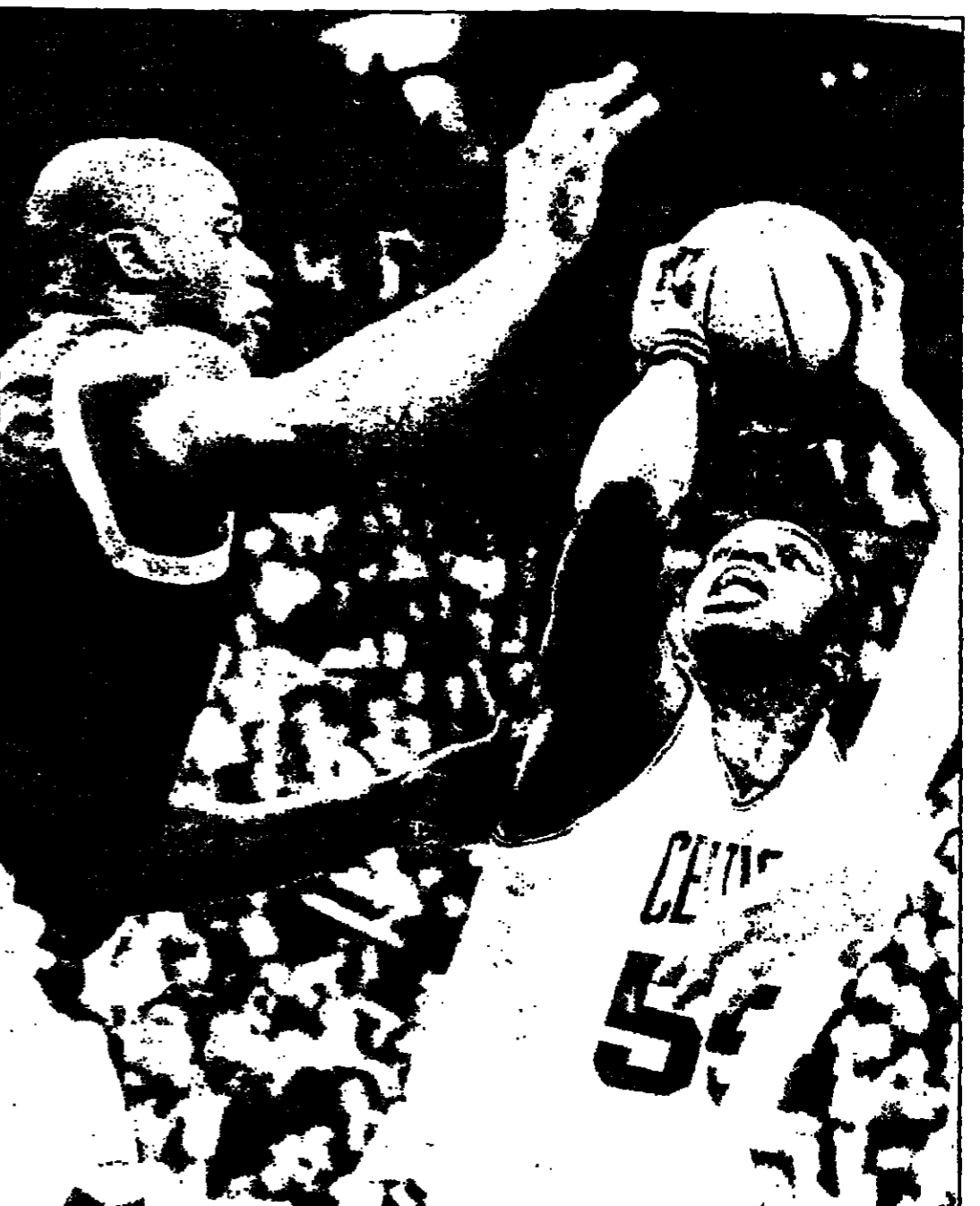
Hunter also scored six points, as did Terry Mills, in a 14-0 run that broke the game open in the fourth quarter. Otis Thorpe added 17 points and 14 rebounds and Grant Hill had 15 points, eight assists and six rebounds for Detroit.

Vancouver, playing without regular starters Bryant Reeves and Blue Edwards, was led by Greg Anthony's 24 points.

San Antonio 106, Timberwolves 98 Detlef Schrempf and Hersey Hawkins tied season-highs with 27 and 24 points, respectively, and visiting Seattle whittled five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter by Shame Heal to defeat Minnesota.

Gary Payton added 22 points and 12 assists and Shawn Kemp had 19 points and 14 rebounds for the SuperSonics, who had their 11-game winning streak snapped Tuesday night.

It was the Timberwolves' first home



BACK OFF - Boston's forward Eric Williams is defended closely by Shaquille O'Neal in first quarter action in Boston on Wednesday night.

loss this season, dropping Minnesota to 4-1 at the Target Center and leaving the Chicago Bulls the only team undefeated at home.

Seattle has defeated the Timberwolves 22 straight times.

Backs 92, Cavaliers 75 Vin Baker and Glenn Robinson scored 22 points each and host Milwaukee broke its 10-game losing streak to Cleveland.

The victory was the Bucks' first over the Cavs since Dec. 30, 1993.

The Bucks didn't trail after the opening minute and led 74-63 entering the fourth quarter. Cleveland got closer than nine points in the final 12 minutes.

Tyrone Hill had 16 points and Terrell Brandon 13 for Cleveland.

WESTERN CONFERENCE Midwest Division

Atlanta Division

Central Division

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists teams like Miami, Orlando, New York, etc.

which had its three-game winning streak snapped.

Trail Blazers 120, Spurs 109 Kenny Anderson scored 25 points, Arvydas Sabonis added 23 and visiting Portland went 13-of-14 from the foul line in the final 90 seconds to beat San Antonio.

Portland won its fifth game in the last six, bouncing back from a 102-101 overtime loss Tuesday night at Houston.

The Blazers used their huge size advantage, led by the 7-foot-3 (2.21-meter), 292-pound (131-kilogram) Sabonis, to hold back the scrappy Spurs.

Dominique Wilkins led the Spurs with a season-high 33 points. Jazz 107, Nuggets 103 Jeff Hornacek scored 29 points, including five in the final 1:16 to cap a 36-point comeback, and Karl Malone added 31 points and 17 rebounds as host Utah defeated Denver.

The Nuggets led 70-36 at halftime.

WEDNESDAY'S NBA RESULTS

Table with 3 columns: Team, Score, Opponent. Lists results like Toronto 92, Charlotte 88, Detroit 87, Vancouver 78, etc.

but the Jazz outscored them 71-33 over the last two quarters to win their eighth straight game.

Bryant Stith led the Nuggets with 31 points, shooting 7-of-9 on 3-pointers. Dale Ellis added 25 points, but he had only four in the second half.

Heat 98, Clippers 82 Dan Majerle scored a season-high 26 points and Alonzo Mourning added 19 on 9-of-10 shooting as Miami finished 6-0 on its road trip.

The outcome was determined early on a 21-2 run that gave Miami a 33-8 advantage late in the first period. Los Angeles never got closer than 12 the rest of the way.

Tim Hardaway added 18 points for the Heat. Substitute guard Derrick Martin had a season-high 18 for the Clippers.

WESTERN CONFERENCE Pacific Division

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists teams like Houston, Utah, Minnesota, etc.

Chiefs tame Lions in Detroit Marcus Allen sets NFL rushing touchdown record in 28-24 win

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) - Marcus Allen set an NFL touchdown record, Rich Gannon ended the Kansas City quarterback controversy and the Chiefs made the Wayne Wacht academic in Detroit.

Allen rushed for two TDs, including the go-ahead score with 46 seconds remaining, sending the Chiefs to a 28-24 victory yesterday and ending the Lions' playoff hopes.

Detroit (5-8) needed another miracle finish to take the heat off embattled coach Wayne Fontes. Instead, the Lions have lost six of their last seven, after starting the season with a 4-2 record.

Allen now has 112 rushing touchdowns, bettering the old mark of 110 he had shared with Walter Payton. Jerry Rice has the record of total TDs.

"This couldn't have come on a more appropriate day," Allen said. "I'm just thankful for the guys who did their job."

But it was Gannon, named the starter ahead of Steve Bono earlier in the week, who jump-started the offense for the Chiefs (9-4). Gannon, who was given the job because of his mobility, scrambled for 45 of Kansas City's 243 rushing yards.

"It's been real emotional," Gannon said. "It's been real tough on Steve."

A 21-yard field goal by Jason Hanson gave Detroit a 24-21 lead with 8:41 left in the fourth quarter. But it was all Kansas City after that.

Gannon, who completed 15-of-18 passes for 120 yards and two touchdowns, without an interception, set the tone for the Chiefs' winning drive with a 16-yard scramble on the first play. Then he began handing the ball off to Greg Hill who ripped the Lions' defense behind solid blocking from the offensive line.

Hill, who had 103 yards on 17 carries, ran seven times for 29 yards during the Chiefs' 76-yard, 15-play

drive for the clincher. After a 7-yard run by Hill gave Kansas City first-and-goal at the 2, Allen returned to the backfield. Allen, who finished with 73 yards on 15 carries, was stopped a yard short on his first carry, then soared over the top in a classic dive for the winning touchdown.

Allen got No. 111 at 11:11 of the first quarter. He helped set the record-breaking score up with a 35-yard run earlier in the nine-play, 91-yard drive, followed a lead block by fullback Tony Richardson into the end zone.

As he headed to the sidelines, getting hugs and pats from teammates, Allen raised his right fist over his head.

The touchdown dropped Jim Brown to third on the all-time list with 106 rushing TDs. Brown is followed by Emmitt Smith with 105 and John Riggins with 103. Smith is the only one still active in the NFL.

Scott Mitchell, who completed 18-of-29 for 247 yards, with two interceptions, tossed a 16-yard TD pass to Johnnie Morton and Mike Wells fell on a Kansas City fumble in the end zone to give Detroit a 14-7 lead in the second quarter.

A 17-yard TD pass from Gannon to Chris Penn pulled the Chiefs into a 14-14 tie at halftime.

Barry Sanders, who had 77 of Detroit's 81 rushing yards on 20 carries, scored on a classic 13-yard run in the third quarter. Gannon hit Derrick Walker with a 9-yard scoring pass to tie it 21-21 with 10:54 left in the fourth quarter.

The Chiefs, who have won four of their last five games, now have defeated all four NFC Central teams they have played this season. Earlier, they knocked off Minnesota, Green Bay and Chicago.

YESTERDAY'S NFL RESULTS: Kansas City 28, Detroit 24; Washington at Dallas (N)

Shanahan's hat trick leads Red Wings to victory

DETROIT (AP) - Brendan Shanahan scored his 300th goal while completing his eighth career hat trick, leading the Detroit Red Wings to a 5-2 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Wednesday night.

Shanahan, who has 14 points in his last six games, also had an assist. He scored twice in the first period and once in the second for his first hat trick since the Red Wings obtained him in an early-season trade with Hartford.

Martin Lapointe and Darren McCarty also scored for Detroit, which was playing at home for the first time since going 2-1-1 on a four-game west coast trip. Jamie Baker and Wendel Clark scored for the Maple Leafs, who have lost their last seven road games and are 2-9-0 on the road this season.

Jaroslav Jagr scored shorthanded on a breakaway midway through the third period to help host Pittsburgh Penguins tie Montreal.

Marc Bureau had put Montreal ahead 2-1 with a power-play goal at 8:18 of the second period. Petr Nedved scored Pittsburgh's other goal while Brian Savage scored for Montreal, both in the first period.

The Canadiens' three-game winning streak ended while the Penguins failed in their attempt to win consecutive games for the second time this season. The Penguins are 1-6-1 against the Canadiens in their last eight meetings.

Canucks 6, Whalers 2 Mike Ridley and Alexander Mogilyev scored two goals each and Corey Hirsch made 41 saves for visiting Vancouver.

Donald Brashear and Ridley scored in a span of 3:08 midway through the second period to give Vancouver a 2-1 lead. Ridley added an insurance goal in the third period when Mogilyev scored both his goals for the Canucks, 4-1-0 in their last five games.

Kevin Dineen and Geoff Sanderson scored for Hartford, which is 0-2-1 in its last three.

Islanders 4, Flyers 1 Marty McInnis scored twice and Tommy Salo stopped 29 shots as host New York beat Philadelphia, the Flyers' second straight loss since the return of captain Eric Lindros.

In Lindros' first two games since returning from a groin injury, the Flyers have been outscored 6-1 in their two losses.

Kenny Jonsson and Zigmund Palffy also scored for the Islanders, who have beaten the Flyers in all three meetings this season. Joel Otto scored for the Flyers.

WEDNESDAY'S NHL RESULTS: Vancouver 6, Hartford 2, Montreal 2, Pittsburgh 2, N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 1, Ottawa 2, Washington 1, Buffalo 3, Tampa Bay 0, Detroit 5, Toronto 2, New Jersey 3, Dallas 2, N.Y. Rangers 5, Colorado 2, Los Angeles 5, Edmonton 1, St. Louis 3, Chicago 2, St. Louis 3, Anaheim 2

SPORTS BRIEFS

Jerusalem's runners leave for Cyprus Eleven runners from the long distance running club 'Ha'Soleim Jerusalem,' left for Cyprus yesterday to compete in the 3rd Cyprus Aphrodite Half Marathon on Sunday.

Five hundred runners are expected at the starting line, among them Lebanese entrants and also the two-time Olympic gold medal winner from Germany, Waldemar Cierpinski.

Raptors' Camby out a week with back strain Marcus Camby has a strained low back, and the Toronto Raptors rookie is expected to be sidelined a week.

When Camby fell to the SkyDome court on Tuesday, his legs numb and unable to move, coach Darrell Walker thought something had gone wrong with the 22-year-old rookie's heart.

Camby was working on a simple drop-step move during a pregame warmups when he fell. After spending nearly a half hour on the court, he was taken to a Toronto hospital by ambulance. His neck was stabilized with a cervical collar and he was strapped to a stretcher.

Camby has been beset by physical problems. At the Raptors' training camp in October, he sprained his left ankle and missed about a week of workouts. Then, in the final exhibition game, he sprained his other ankle.

Tracy Ham retires from CFL Tracy Ham, the Montreal Alouettes' scrambling quarterback who played 10 years for four teams in the CFL, has retired.

"I'm leaving because I've done about everything I could do in the CFL," Ham said yesterday.

Ham has been hired as quarterbacks and receivers coach at Georgia Southern, the school he led to two straight NCAA Division I-AA titles during the mid-1980s.

Ham, 32, ended his career as the CFL's all-time rushing leader among quarterbacks with 6,870 yards. He threw for 32,422 yards, fifth-best in the league.

Ham's career also included two Grey Cup wins, four championship-game appearances and one outstanding player award.

He said he retired for several reasons. "I don't think one area influenced me the most," he said. "It's something that I discussed at length with my wife and we both agreed this would be for the best."

Rain postpones speed record attempt A British team seeking to break the world's land speed record postponed its attempt until next year because of bad weather conditions in Jordan.

Floods caused by torrential rain earlier this week had damaged a desert track, where a jet-powered car was to make the attempt, Andrew Noble, an organizer of the event, said yesterday. "Sadly, the whole southern desert is a swamp which will take a long time to dry up," he said. "We have no choice except to pack and leave."

India in danger of follow-on after collapse on Test's second day

CALCUTTA (Reuters) - South African pace pair Allan Donald and Brian McMillan shared four wickets as India were left in danger of having to follow on after an eventful second day in the second Test at Eden Gardens on Thursday.

With two other Indian wickets falling to run outs and Mohammad Azharuddin having to retire hurt, the home country stumbled to 152 for six at the close in reply to South Africa's first innings of 428.

India, who lead the three-test series 1-0, had started the day on a high note by seizing the touring team's last eight wickets for 89 after they resumed at 339 for two.

Paceman Venkatesh Prasad produced his best performance in Tests to finish with six for 104.

India's batsmen made a deceptively good start with Nayan Mongia and Rahul Dravid scoring freely to equal their country's previous best opening stand against South Africa of 68 by Ravi Shastri and Ajay Jadeja at Johannesburg in the 1992-93.

But Dravid, having hit six fours in his 31, needlessly tried to cut a wide and high delivery from McMillan, and Andrew Hudson at second slip held a good head-high catch.

The loss of Dravid started a slump in which six wickets tumbled for 51, including Donald bowling Sachin Tendulkar for 18.

Azharuddin was forced to retire hurt after he was hit by a delivery from McMillan as India were confronted by some fiery fast bowling.

Their collapse was stemmed towards the end of the day by an unbroken seventh wicket stand of 33 between Javagal Srinath (9 not out) and Anil Kumble, unbeaten with 24.

India will begin the third day needing a further 77 to avoid the



THREE CHEERS - South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs is lifted in jubilation by teammate Allan Donald after Gibbs' straight throw run out of India's Nayan Mongia yesterday.

follow-on. Their batsmen's failure to cope with the South African pace attack came as a bitter disappointment to home supporters after India's bowlers staged a fine fightback.

Table with 3 columns: Team, W, L, Pts. Lists cricket results like India first innings, South Africa first innings, etc.

Brother: Police fabricated story to nab cameraman

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE fabricated a story to justify beating up and arresting the Palestinian amateur photographer whose video footage of border policemen abusing Palestinian workers made headlines last week, the photographer's brother charged yesterday.

"Border policemen were driving by our store every day threatening to take revenge on Azzam," said photographer Azzam Maraka's brother, Hussam. Azzam had complained to the Justice Ministry's Police Investigations Division about the threats he received.

On Wednesday, Azzam Maraka was arrested outside his store on Sultan Suleiman Street in Jerusalem. Police said Maraka was held after he attacked municipal inspectors who were trying to force his brother to close an illegal sidewalk vending stand.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby strongly denied the allegations, noting that police were not even directly involved at the start of the incident.

However, Hussam said he was the brother police were referring to, only he has never worked as a street vendor. He said he left the family's jewelry and money changing store to get a breath of fresh air, and was attacked by inspectors and police.

"I wasn't outside for a minute, and the city inspectors jumped on

me, and afterward all the policemen came and also jumped on me," Hussam said. He said the policeman called into the store to Azzam, "Look, we've got your brother," and Azzam came out to help him.

There were dozens of policemen, border policemen, and city inspectors in the area at the time, as the authorities were clearing Sultan Suleiman and Salah A-Din streets, the heart of the Arab business district, from illegal vendors and taxis.

Hussam, who has chronic back problem and wears a brace, said he was lightly injured and had to be hospitalized for several hours. He said the policemen beat up his brother, and then took him away. Police said two inspectors were lightly injured.

Azzam Maraka remained in police custody yesterday, and police may ask for his remand tomorrow, Ben-Ruby said. "He is still being questioned," Ben-Ruby said. Maraka had attacked the inspectors, and no one had come to trouble him or anyone in his family, he said.

Khader Shkirat, a Palestinian human rights activist, said, "Under the occupation, the Border Police and army always try to frighten Palestinians into not complaining about being abused, by threatening that if they do complain they will be dealt with."



A policeman examines a horse seriously injured yesterday when it was hit by a truck near Damascus Gate in eastern Jerusalem. The policeman riding the horse was unharmed. (Brian Henders)

Judge orders Sharon to testify in libel suit

A TEL AVIV District Court judge rejected a request yesterday by Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon that he not have to be questioned on the witness stand by the defense attorney in his libel suit against a journalist.

The attorney representing journalist Uzi Benziman asked to question Sharon about an affidavit he made in which he claimed that the government knew about the plans for Operation Peace for Galilee, based on a transcript of a speech Sharon gave at Tel Aviv University.

Sharon filed a libel suit against Benziman for writing that Sharon had lied to late prime minister Menachem Begin about his plan to reach Beirut, and that Begin had spoken the truth when he said the IDF would hold a limited operation.

Benziman yesterday submitted an affidavit to the court in which he said that his article was based on conversations he held with people who were the closest to Begin. (Irm)

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.
Shabbat: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Forecast
Alexandria	11	19	Partly cloudy
Berlin	11	16	Partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	13	19	Partly cloudy
Geneva	11	16	Partly cloudy
Hong Kong	27	30	Partly cloudy
Jakarta	25	32	Partly cloudy
London	10	13	Partly cloudy
Los Angeles	16	23	Partly cloudy
Moscow	10	14	Partly cloudy
Montreal	10	14	Partly cloudy
New York	11	17	Partly cloudy
Paris	11	16	Partly cloudy
Shanghai	13	19	Partly cloudy
Stockholm	10	14	Partly cloudy
Tokyo	13	19	Partly cloudy
Warsaw	10	14	Partly cloudy
Zurich	11	16	Partly cloudy

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Umbilical cord blood transplant from sister saves three-month-old

A THREE-MONTH-OLD baby girl whose brother died of severe combined immunodeficiency disease (SCID) is doing well after undergoing the first Israeli umbilical cord blood transplant for this rare disease, and only the second in the world.

The procedure, which is judged successful in the next two or three months will mean a complete cure, was carried out earlier this month through the joint cooperation of Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer and the national umbilical-cord blood bank at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

The donor of the cord blood, now a three-year-old girl, was born to a haredi Jerusalem couple a month after their four-year-old son died of the disease.

Doctors urged that the infant's cord blood be frozen in the

Hadassah bank in the event that they had another child suffering from SCID, of which there have been only a few hundred reported cases in the world.

The genetic disease was diagnosed in the newborn girl by Prof. Gideon Rechavi, head of Sheba's hemato-oncology department after a different hospital failed to detect it.

Although she had an almost total absence of lymphocytes and a nearly non-existent immune system, she did not immediately develop the infections that are almost always fatal during the first years of a SCID victim's life.

Dr. Arnon Nagler, Israel's expert on cord blood, defrosted the processed specimen from the girl's sister and brought it to Sheba, where the 70 cc. of precious fluid

was given to the newborn baby without prior immunosuppressive conditioning for the treatment.

According to Nagler and Dr. Yoram Neumann, deputy head of the Sheba department, the baby is now home and infection-free, and "showing clear signs that the transplant was accepted."

SCID infants are known as "bubble babies" as they can be kept alive and protected only in a totally enclosed, germ-free environment with compressed air to keep microbes away. But this is not a long-term solution.

A bone-marrow transplant or an infusion of peripheral stem cells from a compatible donor can also be used, but a cord-blood donation from a well-matched donor is the best way to conquer the disease. The only previous SCID patient to undergo a cord-blood transplant lives in Europe.

Treasury: Still no plan to up taxes

DAVID HARRIS

THE Finance Ministry's plans for additional cuts to the 1997 budget do not include proposals to increase taxes, ministry spokesman Eli Yosef said yesterday.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor and senior Treasury officials presented their recommendations for cutting an additional NIS 2 billion from the budget to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night.

It was the first formal budget meeting between the two offices since Netanyahu and Meridor announced their intention to increase the cut to some NIS 7b. The exact size of the extra cut will be determined next week, at the earliest, when the latest monthly figures on revenues and the budget deficit are received. "These will give us a much clearer picture," said Yosef, who put the extra cut at anywhere between NIS 1.5b. and NIS 2.5b.

"What I can say is that in the Treasury there is no intention to include taxes in the new cut. We believe the best way to deal with the budget and balance of payments deficits is by cuts in public expenditure."

It has become clear that the cuts will not, as was first thought by outgoing budget department head Ran Kroll, be made across the board. The IDF, for example, said last week that it had reached an agreement with the Finance Ministry that it would not face an additional cut. Those likely to face the brunt of the savings include the Housing and Education ministries. "Nothing has been decided yet, though," said Yosef.

Katsav, Arab council heads meet to try to head off strike

HEADS of debt-ridden Arab councils were due to meet Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav in Shtarom in the Galilee last night in a last-ditch bid to prevent a threatened general strike of the Arab sector next week.

The councils are trying to press the government to bail out the 53 local authorities which altogether have accumulated debts totaling NIS 430 million. Katsav, who also holds the Arab Affairs portfolio, was expected to present proposals to aid the councils. (David Rudge)

Police check allegations vs. MK Oshaya

THE Police National Fraud Squad is looking into allegations Labor MK Ephraim Oshaya illegally used Histadrut funds to finance his party primary campaign last year, when he served as the labor council chairman in Netanya, according to police sources.

However, police have yet to decide whether the allegations are strong enough to warrant the opening of a formal investigation against Oshaya, and summoning him for interrogation as a suspect, the sources said.

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